

**IUSB Campus Assessment Committee
Annual Report 2003/04
Presented to the Academic Senate October, 2004
<http://www.iusb.edu/~assess/>**

Introduction

The mission of the Indiana University South Bend Assessment Committee is to promote, support and monitor academic program assessment activities at the university.

Website

A new website, using the IUSB templates, is now on-line. The address is <http://www.iusb.edu/~sbassess/>. Updated several times a month, it serves as a clearinghouse for Committee documents, news, forms and information. It is also a showcase for examples of excellent assessment programs at IUSB. The Assessment Committee continues to use the VCAA newsletter as an additional outlet for assessment information.

Assessment Grants

Grants from the Assessment Committee allow for assessment innovation in academic programs. A number of creative projects are now underway, or recently completed. For a list of assessment grants awarded, and final reports from completed assessment grants please consult the Assessment website at: <http://www.iusb.edu/~sbassess>. During 2003/04 awards were given to:

- The School of Education for assessment retreats;
- Counseling and Human Services for developing an employer survey;
- Liberal Arts and Sciences for development of an electronic course evaluation system;
- The School of Nursing for purchase of assessment software.

The total amount of grant money awarded was \$10,321.

The Assessment Committee has increased the maximum amount per grant to \$3000 for the 2004/05 year. They felt this was appropriate in light of the increasing sophistication and cost of the assessment projects being undertaken by academic programs. The first round of applications for 2004/05 will be accepted until November 1, 2004. Applications and guidelines are available on the website.

Third Year Reviews 2003/04

A summary of the 2004/04 Third Year Reviews, as well as a number of examples are available on the Assessment Committee website: <http://www.iusb.edu/~sbassess/>

Annual Reports

The narrative format for the annual reports was revised again in response to user comments and Committee evaluation. The new questions closely reflect the Third Year Review format.

Getting an adequate return on the annual reports continues to be a problem. Despite numerous reminders, only about half of the annual reports have been returned at three months after the deadline.

Assessment Plans

In preparation for upcoming accreditation activities, the Assessment Committee has asked academic programs to update their assessment plans as part of the Third Year Review process. The Assessment Culture Matrix, from the Higher Learning Commission, an outline and examples are available as resources for programs as they revise and update their assessment plans. They are available by contacting the assessment office, (x5598,) or on the website.

Conferences and Meetings

During 2004/05, members of the Assessment Committee attended both the Assessment Institute in Indianapolis, and the Higher Learning Commission Conference in Chicago. At these conferences, they collected valuable information on assessment techniques, resources and the impact of assessment on accreditation. In 2004/05, the Assessment Committee will have a limited number of conference registration sponsorships available for the Assessment Institute available to interested IUSB faculty.

Assessment Resources

Several new resources were added to the assessment library. For a complete listing of print resources available at the assessment office, please consult the website.

Assessment Support

The Assessment Committee repeatedly hears from academic departments that they would like to undertake an expanded assessment program, but that the funds and faculty time are just not available for the on-going expenses involved. The Assessment Committee would strongly urge the IUSB campus to find ways of building assessment funds into permanent program budgets. Dependable campus support of cutting-edge, excellent assessment programs is paramount in light of accreditation, accountability and promotional efforts.

Assessment Committee Members

For the 2004/05 academic year Linda Fisher will continue as the Chair of the Assessment Committee. The Committee welcomes new members: Cheri Brown, Randall Davies, Mike Darnel and Monle Lee. They will join Pat Henry, Alec Hosterman and Barbara Peat. The Assessment Committee would like to express appreciation to Karen Ackoff, Karen Clark, Paul Newcomb and Paul Kochanowski for their service as they rotate off of the Committee.

Future

This year, the Assessment Committee plans to prepare for the upcoming HLC accreditation visit by assisting all programs in updating their assessment plans. The Committee encourages departments to apply for an assessment grant, and to use examples from their colleagues as they undertake this task. The Assessment Committee also plans to update its own mission and strategic plan to reflect the current role of the Assessment Committee at IUSB.

The Assessment Committee is eager to assist the General Education Implementation Task Force as they consider ways to incorporate assessment into the General Education curriculum.

The Assessment Committee plans to maintain its accountability to the Academic Senate and to the Administration by continuing to regularly report on the results of assessment activities and data collection. The website will have a more prominent role as a clearinghouse for examples of assessment reports from programs.