
DATE: April 16, 2018
TO: Tim Bigelow, Academic Affairs Council
SUBJECT: Annual Report
CC: Sherri Angstrom

Committee Charge: Coordinate learning outcomes assessment implementation across the university.

The Outcomes assessment committee met three times in the fall of 2017 and four times in the spring of 2018. No additional subcommittees exist at this time.

Activity:

During the 2017/2018 year, the Outcomes Assessment Committee Reviewed and discussed the following:

- Common college outcomes
 - Clarification of outcomes expectations across sections of courses and modality of instruction. We recognize that this topic is currently under discussion by the FS Curriculum Committee as a change to the faculty handbook.
 - Definition of graduate outcomes and assessment of 'outcomes' for graduate education. We recognize that the Graduate College has started to take the lead on this discussion.
 - Peer 11 comparison
 - Compared to peer institutions, the level of central support for faculty related to outcomes assessment is lacking. Most institutions have an outcomes assessment office/staff where faculty can get assistance in developing outcomes, assessment plans, etc. Additionally, peer institutions have online systems for reporting this data in a uniform way, facilitating aggregated use of the data. This committee recommends that given our current structure and financial constraints that a priority be placed on creating a dedicated assessment position to provide base level support in this area. If we as an institution value assessment of outcomes, we need to provide the support necessary for faculty to effectively implement outcomes assessment.
 - Past outcomes discussions
 - The challenge we have describing the 'general education' expectations and outcomes. What do we expect all of our
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bachelor graduates to attain, regardless of their major? (This committee has been exploring the commonality of outcomes across the colleges and comparisons to our peers.)

- Diversity and IP review and recommendations
 - Recommendations made to the Academic Affairs Council for modification to language.
- Upcoming Higher Learning Commission review
 - Iowa State will be going through a Higher Learning Commission Year Four Assurance Review, beginning on February 3, 2020. As we prepare for that review, and in the spirit of continuous improvement, there are areas where Iowa State could improve related to learning outcomes assessment. Some of these areas Iowa State self-identified in preparation for the visit and others were identified by the visiting team. Reflecting on the reports and through discussions at FS Outcomes Assessment Committee the following areas of potential improvement have been identified:
- Discussion of the needed revision of the Faculty Handbook language 10.7.2 on Outcomes Assessment to reflect current practice and expectations. This future goal of this FS Outcomes Assessment Committee.

Goals for the next year:

- Based on the identified general outcomes in common across colleges, the committee will develop a proposed set of overarching University-wide Student Learning Outcomes.
- Revise and update the language in the Faculty Handbook, section 10.7.2, on Outcomes Assessment to reflect current practices and expectations.