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DATE: April 26, 2021  
TO: Sarah Bennett-George, Academic Affairs Council  
SUBJECT: Annual Report  
CC: Sherri Angstrom

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

The Outcomes Assessment committee met 3 times in the fall of 2020 and 2 times in the spring of 2021.

**Activity:**

During the 2020/2021 year, the Outcomes Assessment committee reviewed and discussed the following:

- Revised and updated the language in the Faculty Handbook, section 10.7.2, on Outcomes Assessment to reflect current practices and expectations, along with added verbiage regarding the four approved (Feb. 11, 2021) university-wide outcomes (Diversity and Global Citizenship, Communication, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Information Literacy). Hence, the following steps were taken:
  - Revised language to propose four outcomes as university-wide learning outcomes based on existing outcomes already held in each individual college.
  - Submitted handbook language changes to Academic Affairs Council (AAC) in Feb/March 2021.
    - Handbook language changes were unanimously approved at AAC meeting on March 24, 2021.
  - After AAC accepted proposed changes, they were presented to the Faculty Senate Executive Board at their April 13, 2021 meeting.
    - Comments from this meeting were shared with Committee Chair by Ann Marie VanDerZanden: “Overall, there was support for it, but there were some suggestions for word changes and some clarity on must vs. will [should].”
- Upcoming Higher Learning Commission review
  - Iowa State engaged in a Higher Learning Commission Year Four Assurance Review, which began on February 3, 2020. As a portion of this 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.
  - The HLC Review report noted that although Iowa State clearly outlines the skills and attitudes that every ISU undergraduate should

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possess, "[i]t is less clear how these outcomes will be assessed and aggregated at the institutional level." The committee has surveyed other Big12 institutions to determine how Iowa State's Gen Ed assessment practices compare with practices at the other Big12 institutions. It is apparent that our assessment practices are not in alignment with other Big 12 institutions.

- On April 13, 2021, HLC approved Iowa State's proposed Quality Improvement Initiative project. Iowa State is participating in the American Council on Education's Learner Success Lab with nine other institutions. As part of this 18-month project, Iowa State faculty and staff will conduct a comprehensive audit of the university's current student success initiatives and will propose a strategic plan for learner success. The plan aims to align policies, resources, and practices to better facilitate learner success. To date, the project steering committee has appointed six subcommittees and has commenced the comprehensive audit part of the project. Sixty-four members of Iowa State's community are participating in the project subcommittees. The project will examine learner success through the lenses of diversity/inclusion, data-driven decision-making, and agility/transformation.
- Our committee continues to look for ways to partner with existing resources available on campus, such as CELT. For example, to help support the outcomes assessment committee's efforts, two CELT staff members will participate in a week-long "Assessment 101" training sponsored by James Madison University in June 2021.

**Goals for the next year:**

- Once the language in the Faculty Handbook, section 10.7.2, on Outcomes Assessment has been approved to reflect current practices and expectations, our committee will draft a recommended implementation plan.
- Identify agenda for next academic year, including a recommended five-year assessment plan for the General Education requirements.
- During the next academic year we will partner with CELT to develop training for faculty and staff on assessment practices.

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- Create a best practices guide and website for outcomes assessment in conjunction with CELT.
- Ensure adequate preparation for the upcoming HLC Review.
- Consider as part of HLC Quality Initiative – Conduct Needs assessment for Curriculum/co-curriculum. Determine where colleges stand with outcomes assessment and to recommend training, processes, and potential resources.