
DATE: April 17, 2023
TO: Rahul Parsa, Academic Affairs Council
SUBJECT: Annual Report
CC: Sherri Angstrom

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

The Outcomes Assessment committee met 3 times in the fall of 2022 and 3 times in the spring of 2023.

Additionally, the OA committee chair (Jessica Hurst) met with Ann Marie VanDerZanden, Associate Provost for Academic Programs and the new Director of Academic Quality and Undergraduate Education, Kelsey Gillen 1 time in fall 2022. And, Jessica Hurst met with Kelsey Gillen 3 times in the spring 2023.

Activity:

During the 2022/2023 year, the Outcomes Assessment committee reviewed and discussed the following:

- 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 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

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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.

- Since Shawn Boyne's departure from the University during summer 2022, our committee has been working with the newly hired (October 2022) Director of Academic Quality and Undergraduate Education, Kelsey Gillen in the Provost's office on the completion of "college heatmaps" regarding program review status and learning outcome information for each degree program (by major) on campus.
- Our committee developed Phase 1 of a Qualtrics survey to collect data from all programs on campus during spring/summer 2022 regarding student learning outcomes. The intro of the survey states: "Our university-wide requirements are designed to ensure that all Iowa State University undergraduate students acquire the key skills and perspectives needed to succeed in a global society. In the Spring of 2020, the Faculty Senate approved four university-wide learning outcomes for undergraduate students. This survey will help our committee identify our campus-wide assessment needs as we strive to improve student learning and begin to prepare for our ten-year accreditation review by the Higher Learning Commission scheduled for 2025." Response rate for this survey was low; primary feedback was that the survey was too long.
- During fall 2022 and spring 2023, with the help of Kelsey Gillen, a much briefer version of the Phase 1 survey was developed and launched as Phase 2 of a Qualtrics survey to collect data from all programs on campus during spring/summer 2022 regarding student learning outcomes. The intro of the updated survey states: "This survey will help the Faculty Senate Outcomes Assessment Committee identify our campus-wide assessment needs as we strive to improve student learning and begin to prepare for our ten-year accreditation review by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) scheduled for 2025. We are gathering information to capture a snapshot of the landscape of outcomes assessment at ISU. Your honest feedback on this survey will help us identify where help and resources are needed, so that we have a successful HLC review in 2025."

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Goals for the next year:

- Identify agenda for next academic year, including a recommended five-year assessment plan for the General Education requirements.
- 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.
- During the next academic year, we will partner with CELT to develop training for faculty and staff on assessment practices.
- Create a best practices guide and website for outcomes assessment in conjunction with CELT.