



## Assessment Coordinating Council (ACC)

### Progress Report Fall 2008 – Spring 2010

#### Fall 2008

- A workshop, "**Advancing Student Learning through Outcomes Assessment**", was held on November 7, 2008. A total of 52 representatives from Departments that have recently completed or are currently engaged in Academic Program Review, and other units across campus attended the workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Gwendolyn Johnson, Chair of the Assessment Coordinating Council.

#### Spring 2009

- An **Assessment Showcase, "Best Practices in the Assessment of Learning and Teaching"**, was held on February 11, 2009. Victor Borden, Associate Vice President of University Planning, Institutional Research and Accountability at Indiana University – Bloomington, was the keynote speaker. Session topics included, grading rubrics, writing multiple choice questions, using portfolios and capstones for assessment, web tools for assessment, assessment of student support services; assessment of the General Education program, writing initiatives, and information literacy.
- **Critical Thinking Assessment Project designed.** The purpose of the project is to develop a process for assessing critical thinking on the campus. Baseline information about students' critical thinking skills at the lower and upper division will be collected and analyzed. Participating faculty were identified.
- **UA Assessment Website Workshop** held on May 21. The workshop was designed to assist assessment coordinators with posting assessment outcomes, activities and results to the UA Assessment website. The workshop was facilitated by Gwendolyn Johnson, Chair of the Assessment Coordinating Council and Scott Moomaw of the Office of Institutional Research and Planning Support.
- **Tri-University Assessment meetings** initiated by Gwendolyn Johnson, Chair of the Assessment Coordinating Council. The first meeting was held at ASU on April 17, 2009; the second on July 17, 2009 at NAU; a third meeting is planned for summer 2010 at the UA. The purpose of the meetings is to develop collaborations around assessment among the State's universities.

#### Summer 2009

- **Materials for the Critical Thinking Assessment Project developed.** ACC members worked with participating faculty to develop a common assignment to assess critical thinking, identify and common reading, and to refine the critical thinking/problem solving rubric that was created for the Project.

#### Fall 2009

- **Critical Thinking Assessment Project implemented.** A critical thinking assignment that was developed by participating faculty was administered to the students in five sections of first-year composition and two sections of a Tier Two class. The assignment, which included a common reading, was embedded in each course, submitted electronically, and subsequently scored independently using a rubric that was developed for the project. The assignments will be collected and scored in spring 2010.
- A **Hands-on Assessment Workshop** was held on November 4, 2009. The workshop featured a systemic approach to outcomes assessment and provided suggestions and advice for effective program assessment. Participants were given a tutorial on accessing and updating information on the UA website and were able to work on their own outcomes assessment plans.

#### Spring 2010

- **Critical Thinking Assessment Project continues.** A total of 280 papers were collected and scored: 172 from Tier Two and 108 from First-Year Composition (FYC). The results of the Critical Thinking Assessment

Project were encouraging – the majority of students (71%) scored within the satisfactory or excellent range. The project will continue through spring 2010 into fall 2010.

- **Process for recognition of progress in program assessment developed.** The ACC and the Office of the Provost announced the designation of two levels of assessment recognition for academic and student support programs. These programs must demonstrate progress in assessing student learning through productive and sustainable means. Recognition will be given at two levels: Achievement in Assessment and Excellence in Assessment. An assessment recognition emblem will be displayed on the programs' websites at <http://assessment.arizona.edu>.
- **An Assessment Showcase, "Program Assessment: Doing it Well", with Assessment Recognition** was held on April 8, 2010. The Showcase provided an overview of program assessment and featured presentations on assessment in student support programs and graduate education, and a presentation on tools for program assessment. Participants were able to attend concurrent sessions that focused on assessment within Colleges at the UA. Over 80 undergraduate and graduate programs received recognition for 'Achievement in Assessment' from the Office of the Provost and the ACC.
- **The ACC begins working with the Office of the Provost to refine the assessment portion of the Academic Program Review (APR) process.** The ACC and the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs began discussions about how the assessment portion of the APR process may be modified to yield more useful information for both the participating department and the Office of the Provost. A rubric that may be useful in the development of a process for reviewing APR assessment plans and giving feedback to the departments has been created.