

Accreditation and Assessment Council meeting minutes, May 17, 2016

1. Brief review of progress on Standards 1, 3, 4, and 5

The chair began the meeting by reviewing and receiving progress reports from the Standard Subcommittees. The subcommittees had been wrapped up in end-of-year activities, and have not made much progress on their reports. Fortunately, we are 2.3 years from our due date, so panic is inappropriate at this point! That being said, progress will be celebrated.

2. Perspectives from the Veterans of the Y7R
 - a. Dr. Ron Larson, MSU Bozeman
 - b. Dr. Jen Bratz, Rocky Mountain College

Dr. Jen Bratz, Associate Academic Vice President and Emily Wall, Institutional Research Analysts both of Rocky Mountain College spoke about RMC's experience with the Y7R. Key points of their comments follow:

1. Be up front about challenges the team experienced while going through the process.
2. Focus of much of their effort was on the indicators reported in their Y3R.
3. The campus had to define success: "RMC will have 90% of indicators at 70% of accomplishment." Campuses have to define success for themselves.
4. A great deal of responses from NWCCU had to do with external vs. internal assessment of indicators. There was significant discussion in the meeting about what constituted "external" assessment of indicators. RMC defined that as externally-generated measures (AACU VALUE Rubrics, for example), while AAC members assumed "external" assessment involved reviewers external to the institution. RMC selected a number of measures from NSSE and the SSI as external assessments. They are also considering a more thorough implementation of the AAC&U Value Rubrics (all 16 of the following AACU VALUE Rubrics are loaded into the Box:
 - a. Civic Engagement,
 - b. Creative Thinking,
 - c. Critical Thinking,
 - d. Ethical Reasoning and Action,
 - e. Foundations and Skills for Lifelong Learning, and Integrative Learning
 - f. Global Learning,
 - g. Information Literacy,
 - h. Inquiry and Analysis,
 - i. Intercultural Knowledge and Competence,
 - j. Oral Communication,
 - k. Problem Solving,
 - l. Quantitative Literacy,
 - m. Reading,
 - n. Teamwork,
 - o. Written Communication)

5. Two approaches: assess the assessment process, and assess student success. It is not a problem to include comments such as this in the report: "We found out that there was _____ problem with our assessment processes, and we are changing it by _____."
6. Must show year-to-year improvement.

Dr. Ron Larson, Associate Provost, Montana State University Bozeman spoke to MSU Bozeman's experiences. Bozeman is not done yet—their report is due in September, 2017. Assessment has been a challenge for the institution. Bozeman's approach is to use 66 authors on the various parts of the report. Recommendation: do not use verbage to hide the fact that they had not met goals. Ron limited authors to a couple of paragraphs and a list of evidence, to reduce the length of the report filling out the 143 templates that come from the Y7R.

3. The Raison D'Être of the AAC

[Saved for future meeting.]

AAC will meet in summer TBD.

Adjourned at 4:50.