

Core Council Report to the Faculty Senate- November 20, 2015

Action Items

The Council passed the motions below.

Motion FS_2015_35. (recommended by the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies and brought by the Executive Committee) majority vote at one meeting, no second required.

Whereas the assessment of student learning outcomes begins with the educational goals of the core, and

Whereas assessment of the core is a faculty-led, faculty-driven process for the benefit of achieving UALR's educational mission, and

Whereas any single measure of student learning should be part of a larger holistic assessment plan, and

Whereas cooperation between administration, faculty, and staff is expected, and

Whereas participation in assessment is a critical component of university service,

Therefore be it resolved that section B. 1, second paragraph, of the Annual Review policy, passed on 4/20/1990, be modified as follows:

Teaching is defined in terms of providing for student learning in a variety of ways, including, **but not limited to**, classroom or clinical instruction; team teaching; supervision of independent study or research; thesis or dissertation supervision; multi-disciplinary teaching activities; student advisement; course preparation; curriculum design, ~~and~~ development, **and assess- ment, and** use of creative teaching strategies and technologies, **etc.** Evidence used to evaluate teaching generally includes student evaluations, peer evaluation, self-evaluation , and other materials. **The results of assessment shall not used in annual reviews of teaching.**

And be it further resolved that section B.3 of the Annual Review policy, passed on 4/20/1990, be modified as follows:

Service shall be evaluated in terms of service to the public, the university, or the profession and may include activities such as discipline-related community service, work on college or university committees, department service, administrative service, recruitment, **assessment**, in-service education, working with professional organizations, and participation in professional meetings. The University has identified public service as an important objective.

And be it further resolved that 1.C in the Promotion and Tenure guidelines be modified as follows:

Examples of such service include, but are not limited to, membership and leadership of unit committees or task forces; advising student organizations; involvement in faculty governance; coordination of programs, labs, and technical support; **assessment**; and recruitment.

And be it further resolved that “2. Policies for Promotion and Tenure,” 5th paragraph in the Promotion and Tenure guidelines be modified as follows:

Decisions on promotion and tenure shall not be based on lifestyle, political affiliations, or religious convictions. **The results of assessment shall not be used in promotion and tenure.**

Other Items

Update on Core Assessment

Some people say that faculty resist change and move slowly. We have shown with the implementation of the new core that is not the case. The core will continue to change because of assessment. Faculty own the curriculum. Faculty-driven assessment is key to having faculty make the real decisions about curriculum.

However, many faculty are concerned about a lack of coordination with respect to assessment. There is also confusion about what can be done with assessment results. One example, of many, is that faculty involved in the 10-year-program review have asked if they could use core assessment data for those reports. The answer is yes.

The Core Council does not know what the plan or process is for university-wide assessment of student learning outcomes. But we want our part of the assessment process to be as clear as possible. Our communication system has been through the members of the Core Council to faculty and chairs with courses in the core. If you have suggestions about how we can communicate more effectively please let me or any of the other members of the Core Council know.

Submitted by Belinda Blevins-Knabe, Chair

Members of the Core Council:

Elizabeth Sloan Davidson and Linda Stauffer , CEHP

Mark Funk and Joe Felan, COB

Nick Jovanovic and Michael DeAngelis, CEIT

Rebecca Streett and Brian Mitchell, CASL

Belinda Blevins-Knabe and Tusty ten Bensel, CSSC