Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Step 3: Educational Effectiveness Review

October 22, 2013

Agenda

- Quick Review of Process and Themes

- Review of Report components
  - Comments, suggestions, feedback

- Review of Recommendations of WASC Site Visit Team (2012)
  - Outline of Response
  - Comments, suggestions, feedback

- Upcoming Milestones/To Dos with relevance to EER

Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Three-Step Process

- Institutional Proposal (2010)

- Capacity and Preparatory Review - CPR (2011/2012)

- Educational Effectiveness Review - EER (Report: June 2014. Site Visit: September 15-29, 2014)

Themes:

- Theme 1: Institutionalizing the Assessment of Student Learning

- Theme 2: Cultivating a Community of Scholars

EER Report: Components (as required)

1. Description of the EER Approach
2. Significant Engagement and Analysis of Educational Effectiveness
3. An Analysis of the Effectiveness of the Program Review Process
4. Further Developments of Student Success Efforts
5. An Updated Data Portfolio
6. An Integrative Component
7. Response to the CPR Recommendations

Description of the EER Approach

- History of Process
  - Institutional Proposal. University chose two themes
  - WASC Approval of themes

- Working Groups based on Themes
  - Began during IP
  - Continued through CPR
  - Additional Volunteers solicited.
  - Theme 1 molded into the Student Learning Committee

Significant Engagement and Analysis of Educational Effectiveness – *Theme 1*

1. New Guidelines for Academic Program Review (Self-Study)
2. New Student Learning Assessment (SLA) Manual (Pending)
3. Student Learning Assessment Plans online (and multi year)
4. Student Learning Assessment Reports on line
5. Curricular Maps updated and online
6. University-wide u-grad, and grad SLOs – aligned with mission
7. U-Grad – Assoc. Dean of Gen Ed, and GenEd Committee
8. Sharing of internal and additional resources – rubrics, sharing institutional knowledge
9. Workshops/presentations
10. Improvements and Expansion of Evaluations and Surveys
11. University Management System, Course Management System

Significant Engagement and Analysis of Educational Effectiveness – *Theme 2*

1. New Definition of Scholarship – Implementation - raising awareness, reflecting in policies & practices
2. Several promotions based on policies (pending)
3. Awards – Faculty Senate (pending)
4. Workload policy
5. Multi-year contracts
6. Orientation (checklist for new faculty)
7. Community Meetings, Retreats, Coordination Meetings
8. E-bulletin, AUA Insider, website up-grade
9. Conferences and Lectures (to support faculty interest and raise awareness of scholarship and research and current issues)
10. Co-curricular activities (and faculty involvement in these as well as staff involvement in academic support)

Analysis of the Effectiveness of the Program Review Process

- History of Program Review at AUA
- Self-Study Guidelines Evolution/Development
  - Revised in 2012
  - Re-revised in 2013
- Preparedness/Support for Self-Study
  - Institutional Support. IRO, Data packets
  - Preparedness. Workshops in SLA
- Student Learning Assessment
  - Multi-year SLAPs
  - SLAR Calendar, http://iro.aua.am/student-learning-committee/
  - Workshops/Presentations
- Online resources
- New Syllabus Template/Policy to frame student learning
- Guidelines for the Review of Academic Support Units (Pending)

Further Developments of Student Success Efforts

- Defining Student Success & Challenges
- U-Grad Student Services
- ACDO – needs major expansion, esp. for u-grad
- Graduation and Retention Rates
- Exit and Alumni Satisfaction Reports
- Employer Surveys
- Further Education – second MA, Ph.D. programs – closely monitor BA
- Improved Data collection and reporting
- New ways of presenting and reviewing of data collection by programs
- Faculty Professional Development
- Integration of SLOs, CLOs into Syllabus template
  - Program Chair
    - On review of Syllabi
    - Regular meetings
    - Templates , Support

An Updated Data Portfolio - required

- Student Data
  - Enrollment (Citizenship, Gender)
  - Graduation and Retention Rates
- Faculty
  - Headcount (Citizenship, Gender)

An Integrative Component – Theme 1

- Student Learning Committee will be institutionalized becoming an integral part of the university with more faculty involved in assessment (training, awareness, monitoring)

- Faculty, including visiting faculty, will integrate assessment of student learning on a regular basis in teaching.

- Faculty will use the results of the ongoing assessment of student learning to improve teaching, learning and the curriculum

An Integrative Component–Theme 2

- Broad understanding among faculty, students, and researchers about importance of research and scholarship (and new definitions)

- Standards for research and scholarship will be applied in the evaluation of faculty and research staff

- More faculty and student collaboration on research and scholarship

- More core and full-time faculty in place to support teaching, research and scholarship

Response to WASC Recommendations (5)

- Provide **ongoing support and resources to promote quality assurance practices and educational** effectiveness.

- With its promising institutional research capacity, adopt **a culture of analytic thinking and reflection** so that AUA can articulate goals for student success appropriate to its mission, measure progress against those goals, and take action based on findings. In particular, the Commission expects **graduation rate and time-to-degree data to be disaggregated by variables important to the mission of the institution.** Consideration should be given to developing a student information database with unit records for each student.

Response to WASC Recommendations (5)

- In anticipation of its switch to a semester system, **ensure consistency and alignment among the policy on credit hours**, the information on syllabi, and practice. For example, the team found syllabi without credit hours, as well as instances of meeting times that might be inadequate according to policy.

- Continue vigilance regarding **financial operations and advancement**, while providing the resources necessary for institutional growth and development, as the institution continues to move toward financial sustainability.

- Continue to **develop and refine its student learning assessment practices** across all academic programs and to **develop guidelines for the systematic review of co-curricular and support services** such as career services, the library, and the registrar.

Milestones/To Dos with relevance to EER

1. Revise Self-Study Guidelines
2. Update Policies Database - online
3. Update Catalog
4. Update Student Learning Assessment Manual
5. Syllabus Monitoring, Compliance Assurance, Analysis
6. Credit-Hour Policy Compliance – Monitoring & Enforcement - mechanisms. Check whether UMS can do this automatically.
7. Faculty Orientation - Is check list working?, What is needed?
8. Curricular Map adjustments
9. Faculty Evaluation Forms
10. Course Evaluation Form – Graduate (done) and U-grad (being created)
11. Guidelines for Review of Academic Support Units
12. Review of Senior Administration President, Provost, VPs, Deans
13. Scholarship – New Definition awareness campaign
14. Scholarship – Awards recognition program
15. Community of Scholars – multi-year contracts, clarify "core," report on status (ft/pt), promotions policy, workload policy,
16. Report on Student, faculty, alumni research collaboration
17. Report on Investigation of Student Negative Evaluations –
18. Career and Alumni - evaluate how well AUA supports students in their transition from school to work, how it continues to support alumni
19. IRO/Assessment/Accreditation – integration into instruction – organic, not an add on
20. Documenting How AUA Adapted to U-Grad needs
21. Researcher Evaluation Form

Upcoming and Next Steps:

Discussions:

> ***Theme 1: Institutionalizing the Assessment of Student Learning – blended into Student Learning Committee***
>
> ***Theme 2: Cultivating a Community of Scholars***

Milestones

Upcoming EER Working Group Meetings

> February 2014   May 2014

In Spring, the draft EER report will be available for comment.