The Committee on Assessment of Institutional Effectiveness (AIE) began the 2020-2021 academic year welcoming 2 new committee members, Mike Duvall, and Karrie Saboe. In the Fall the committee researched past senate records to better understand the longer history of the committee, and researched how institutions define “institutional effectiveness”.

In Spring 2021 the Committee on Assessment of Institutional Effectiveness (AIE) examined annual assessment practices conducted by undergraduate academic programs by reviewing the most recent annual assessment summary reports, and surveying assessment coordinators about their assessment processes.

We described our findings in a memo to the sent to Suzanne Austin, Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, Giaconda Quesada, Assistant Provost for Assessment, & Divya Bhati, Associate Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness SACSCOC Liaison which was unanimously approved by the 2020-2021 AIE committee on April 29th, 2021 and emailed by AIE Chair Stephen Short on April 30th, 2021.

Our research findings, including both this year’s examination on annual assessment results and practices, as well as last year’s examinations of program reviews support several conclusions. First, many faculty report valuing the role of assessment in making evidence-based decisions in their programs but view the current annual assessment process and reporting practices as overly cumbersome and lacking the necessary time needed to implement meaningful change. Second, non-accredited programs and departments would like to utilize their assessment data as part of a larger collection of evidence that is externally reviewed by experts in their domain, but they currently lack financial support to fund these program reviews. Thus, we recommend moving from an annual to a biennial assessment cycle to reduce the burden of reporting and provide more time for representative data collection, analysis, interpretation, and proposed program changes (i.e., “closing the loop”). In addition, we strongly encourage following our peer and aspirational institutions by implementing and financially supporting an external program review cycle for all non-accredited ungraded programs at the College. Collectively, these recommendations can further support our institution’s academic distinction.

The upcoming 2021-2022 committee members include: Mike Duvall, Jannette Finch, mutindi ndunda, Karrie Saboe Wendy Sheppard, Stephen Short, John Sieverdes, Vijay Vulava (Secretary), and Weishen Wang.

The upcoming committee elected Stephen Short to serve as Chair for Fall 2021, and Vijay Vulava to serve as Chair during Spring 2022, when Stephen will be on sabbatical.

Submitted on behalf of the 2020-2021 Committee on Assessment of Institutional Effectiveness,

Stephen Short
Committee Chair