

Annual Report of Assessment Initiative

Coordinator of Assessment of Student Learning

Garv Novak

Since formally assuming the position of Coordinator of Assessment of Student Learning during Winter, 1999, the following have been accomplished:

- *Established Advisory Committee*

The Faculty Assessment Advisory Committee was established by UEPC and the Academic Senate to provide faculty involvement in and approval of academic assessment activities. It is chaired by the Coordinator and has representatives *from* the three academic schools. The committee is currently an *ad hoc* committee.

- *Created and defined an on-going position of Coordinator of Assessment of Student Learning*

The purview of responsibilities for this position is assessment of student learning at the classroom, department, and program level. This differentiates the Coordinator's role from that of the Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research and Assessment. The latter is concerned with broader institutional issues, of which assessment of student learning is the most important.

*D Developed a working definition of Assessment.*

Assessment of student learning is essential to a true learning centered University. This type of assessment closes the feedback loop between teaching and learning by providing clear, valid, and reliable information to student and instructor. It begins with the identification of course and program goals and proceeds with specification of student outcomes and ways to measure them. Assessment is a continual process, a feedback loop that should result in continuous improvement in student learning. As such, assessment functions best as part of faculty development.

- *Established linkages with Faculty Development*

To ensure appropriate connections of assessment to the improvement of student learning, we established the Center for Assessment of Student Learning in L-145G. By placing this physically next to the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching complex, it is designed to encourage faculty to incorporate assessment into the teaching-learning process

*D Developed Assessment Resources:*

Books, articles, and audio tapes on assessment theory, strategies, and techniques for faculty interested in assessment have been incorporated into the Faculty Center's lending library.

- *Consultation with Accrediting Body*

Met with representatives *from* WASC regarding assessment accomplishments and goals during their fall visit.