PRAC minutes
May 3, 2012

Present: R. Zipoli, T. Radice, C. Dellinger-Pate, M. Davidson, C. O’Sullivan, M. Fede, P. Kahlbaugh, M. Enjalran, S. Clerc
Absent: T. Lin

Meeting came to order at 9:40 a.m.

The chair thanked all members of the committee for their service this past academic year. We had a number of lengthy reports and the difficult situation with Accounting this year, and the chair deeply appreciates the committee’s support throughout.

The roster on the UCF website is still incorrect. S. Clerc will ask about it again.

PRAC report re: Mathematics Department self-study.
The committee has determined that the department has met standards 1-17 and therefore recommends that the Mathematics Department be granted continuing approval.

The majority of the meeting was spent discussing what the committee might do with the open meetings at the beginning of the semester and, more broadly, the purpose of assessment and the committee’s role.

As members of this committee and as faculty who have participated, or will participate, in our own departments’ assessment studies, we are all aware of faculty resentment toward the process: the amount of time required of faculty to conduct assessment is time taken away from students and teaching, the burden on small departments in particular can be onerous, the uncertainty about how the university administration uses the assessment reports creates suspicion and anxiety.

Obviously, the underlying question is what is the purpose of assessment?

Assessment is necessary. As a practical matter, it’s required for external accreditation at both departmental and university levels. Ideally, however, it should also benefit faculty and departments, and ultimately our students, thus minimizing the potential that this assessment process will be perceived as a task being required of faculty for vague purposes.

For departments, is it about curricular assessment or something more?

For the administration, the committee wonders what is currently being done with this information, and whether or not program or university-wide changes are being made as a result of the data gathered. How responsive will/can the administration be to the information gathered by departments? Is it merely to say the review was done in an administrator’s report or is it meant to be acted on?

The committee is also engaged in assessment of our role in the process. We would like to streamline both the Academic Review Program document and the checklist we use to interpret it. Perhaps some standards could be condensed to reduce redundancy, made optional, or removed altogether. Standards 16 & 17 (strengths & weaknesses, action plan) might suffice if they’re broad enough to include some of the other significant topics. If nothing else, we need to discuss the origin and purpose of the APR document and checklist.

PRAC feels that this process is more fluid than static, and sees that as PRAC continues to evolve, the process has great potential for providing a valuable resource to departments and to the university in terms of the self-study process. The committee could perhaps identify themes that emerge across
reports, make recommendations to other entities on campus, act as consultants, advisors, information conduit/bridge between departments or offices, an archive of ideas. How can we make the effort more meaningful for everyone involved? How do we determine the standards are really met and not just something we’re checking off a list?

Meeting adjourned 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Clerc
### 2012-2013 Program Review Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate program or department</th>
<th>Self-study due to PRAC</th>
<th>Meeting with PRAC</th>
<th>Revision due</th>
<th>PRAC vote</th>
<th>Recommendation /UCF vote</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open meetings Sep. 6 &amp; 20; Oct. 18</td>
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<td><strong>Liberal Studies</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Nov. 29</td>
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<td><strong>Exercise Science</strong>*</td>
<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>Dec. 12</td>
<td>Jan. 17</td>
<td>Jan. 24</td>
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<td><strong>Social Work</strong>*</td>
<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>Jan. 31</td>
<td>Feb. 6</td>
<td>Feb. 14</td>
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<td><strong>Special Education</strong>*</td>
<td>Feb. 20</td>
<td>Feb. 28</td>
<td>Mar. 6</td>
<td>Mar. 14</td>
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<td><strong>Communication</strong></td>
<td>Mar. 20</td>
<td>Apr. 4</td>
<td>Apr. 10</td>
<td>Apr. 18</td>
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<td><strong>External accreditation &amp; expedited review</strong></td>
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Fall classes begin: August 29, 2012  
Thanksgiving break: November 21-25  
Reading days & finals: December 10-18

Spring classes begin: January 14, 2013  
Presidents’ weekend: February 15-18  
Spring break: March 25-30  
Reading days & finals: May 2-9