

**Senate University Assessment Committee  
Annual Report for  
Academic Year 2021-2022**

The Senate University Assessment Committee (UAC) provides faculty guidance and oversight to the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost in developing and implementing the University Assessment Plan. In addition, the committee analyzes and interprets assessment results, develops appropriate reports, and disseminates assessment results to the Office of Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, the University Senate, and the community.

The University Assessment Committee accomplished the tasks and responsibilities charged to it by the University Senate, with support provided by the Director of University Assessment and Accreditation, Dr. Tim Burrows, and the University Assessment and Accreditation Specialist, Karina Knutson. The committee appreciates the assistance and expertise provided by Dr. Burrows and Karina Knutson.

The committee wishes to thank the Office of University Analytics and Planning and the University community for their assessment efforts. Every contribution is vital to the assessment process at the University of North Dakota. Dr. Amber Johnson (CNPD) and Dr. Soizik Laguette (JDO) co-chaired the Senate University Assessment Committee for the 2021-2022 academic year. Committee members for the 2021-2022 year included:

Frank Bowman (CEM)  
Tim Burrows (Director of University Assessment and Accreditation)  
Sherrie Fleshman (A&S)  
Soizik Laguette (JDO)  
Laura Look (Graduate Studies Designee)  
Amber Johnson (Nursing & Professional Disciplines)  
Amanda Moske (University Analytics & Planning)  
Karyn Plumm (Essential Studies)  
Alex Pokornowski (VPSA designee)  
Sarah Sletten (MED)  
Brad Myers (LAW)  
Donna Pearson (EHD)  
Steven Light (NCoBPA)

## Functions and Responsibilities of the University Assessment Committee

The University Senate has identified six areas of responsibility for the University Assessment Committee. The duties of the committee and its accomplishments during the 2020-21 academic year are as follows:

- I. Address all issues regarding assessment of student achievement and development.

*The university began utilizing Taskstream in AY 2020-21, where academic departments and co-curricular programs upload assessment plans and annual assessment reports. In 2021-22, the University Assessment Committee (UAC) utilized Taskstream to review assessment plans and annual reports for the College of Education and Human Development, College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines and the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. The UAC also conducted reviews of co-curricular units, including Disability Services, the McNair Program (TRIO), the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, and the Writing Center.*

*The UAC provided feedback on student learning outcomes, assessment measures, reported results, and opportunities for utilizing assessment information for continuous improvement. The feedback was compiled in Taskstream and is available to department chairs and unit directors.*

- II. Develop, review, and evaluate the University Assessment Plan in conjunction with the Assessment Director.

*The UAC reviewed and revised the University Assessment Plan; it will be presented to the Senate during the fall 2022 semester for approval. Significant changes include alignment of the UAV review timeline with Academic Program Review and updates to the Essential Studies assessment process.*

- III. Oversee the implementation of the University Assessment Plan, evaluate assessment activities and the interpretation of assessment results, and evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Plan.

*As previously indicated, in 2021-22, the UAC reviewed the assessment findings from three Colleges, totaling 29 graduate programs, 40 undergraduate programs, and 27 certificate programs. In addition, the committee reviewed assessment results for five non-academic programs.*

*The Assessment Director, Assessment & Accreditation Specialist, and the UAC continue to guide departments as they develop, implement, and use their assessment plans. Collectively, the reviews assist with determining the state of assessment for the University. Departments and programs have specific assessment plans with well-articulated student learning goals. Moreover, programs implement assessment methods appropriately. Occasionally, a single assessment method predominates, or the assessment method(s) need further description. A minimal number of programs did not provide results of assessment activities or evidence of actions taken based on assessment results.*

*Resources and trainings continue to be developed for departments to assist them in continuously improving on their assessment efforts.*

- IV. Make recommendations regarding how to address any deficiencies that are revealed by assessment activities.

*The UAC provides prompt, effective, and efficient feedback to academic departments and co-curricular units and offers assistance with assessment activities. Additional trainings and professional development opportunities will be provided to the campus by the Assessment Director, Assessment Specialist and/or the UAC on the topics that were scored the lowest based on the evaluation rubric for each department. The UAC continues to progress in supporting academic departments and co-curricular units when submitting their assessment plans and annual assessment reports. Currently, the university utilizes Taskstream (by Watermark) to compile assessment plans and reports. However, several faculty have voiced concerns regarding the complexity of the Taskstream platform. During the AY 2021-2022, the UAC Co-chairs, Assessment Director, Accreditation Specialist, and other parties of interest attended webinars to learn more about a different platform. The University will utilize Taskstream for one more year, then upgrade to Planning & Self Study (also a Watermark product) for the 22-23 assessment cycle submissions. This updated software has more user-friendly features and provides enhanced reporting abilities for compiling aggregate information across the institution.*

*Feedback was also collected from the UAC itself regarding the internal processes, determine knowledge gaps of members, and identify priorities for the 22-23 academic year.*

- V. Review University Accreditation Report when issued and advise the Senate regarding the Report and its implications.

*The Assessment Committee continues to support institutional efforts related to accreditation. The results from the review of assessment materials will be used in UND's assurance argument for the HLC re-accreditation.*

- VI. Provide guidance to the Assessment Director in order to keep the assessment website current.

*The University Assessment website is kept current by the Assessment and Accreditation Specialist. The UAC is available to provide feedback as needed. For more information, please visit: <https://campus.und.edu/assessment-accreditation/>*

*During the 21-22 year, the website was updated to include: additional instructions related to submitting annual assessment requirements in Taskstream, resources related to all steps of the assessment cycle, and connections to the Essential Studies and Academic Program Review processes and websites. Web traffic counts are collected on a semesterly basis to identify which areas are utilized the most often.*

**Summary:** Updates/revisions to the following documents were made during the AY2021-2022; the UAC will submit the documents, to the Senate, in the fall 2022 semester for approval:

UAC Charge

University Assessment Plan

Assessment Review and Academic Program Review Coupling Proposal

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the University Assessment Committee fulfilled its purpose, function, and responsibilities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Johnson & Soizik Laguette  
University Assessment Committee Co-Chairs  
(2021-2022)