

Academic Assessment Committee (AAC)

3:05 PM, Monday, October 27, 2025

Student Center – Blue and White Room 133

Present: Brewer, Nicole (English), Corbera Lopez, Silvia (Psychological Science), De Savage, Heather (Music), Dlugolenski, Eric (Criminology and Criminal Justice), Holder, Shannon (SOE Dean's Rep), Hughes, Heidi (Management and Organization), Kirby, Yvonne (OIRA, Ex-officio), Kruy, Martha (Library), Larsen, Kris (Earth and Space Sciences), Love, Kurt (Curriculum and Instruction), Rosete, Alfredo (Economics), Soper, Carolyne (CLASS Dean's Rep) Taylor, Michael (SOB Dean's Rep), Thamma, Ravindra (SEST Dean's Rep)

Regrets: Abadiano, Helen (CHRS Dean Rep), Baratta, Cathy (Social Work), Kaczmarek, Martie (OIRA, Ex-officio),

Meeting called to order at 3:05 PM

- I. Approval of meeting minutes of 10/13/25
- II. Yvonne Kirby, Associate Vice President for Planning & Institutional Effectiveness provided the following accreditation updates.
 - a) The NECHE progress report is due January 2026. We have our full accreditation visit in 2028. NECHE new standards are set to take effect July 1, 2026, moving from 9 standards down to 5. They've reduced redundancy, focused on evidence and student success. <https://www.neche.org/2026-draft-of-revised-standards/>.
 - b) NECHE requires that graduate and undergraduate programs have Learning Outcomes that are different and show progression in learning. Master's level Learning Outcomes need to be more advanced (they can be similar, but graduate programs must be at a higher level). In addition, bachelor's degrees should be higher than undergraduate certificate programs. Likewise, master's level should be more advanced than OCPs. OIRA is in the process of meeting with the Deans to address programs that might need revision.
 - c) OIRA also plans to revisit the assessment annual report filing policy for OCPs that are embedded in undergrad or grad programs.
 - d) Guidance for assessment of programs with minimal core requirements/no common required course:
 - i. One suggestion is to use an exit interview (not self-reported by the student). Exit interviews should be content based. Understanding surveys that ask students to self-report or rate their level of understanding of content is not evidence-based and therefore does not provide the department with adequate information. Multiple choice questions can work if alignment is clearly identified (e.g. 5 questions apply to LO2 (this is not limited to programs with minimal core courses). This is appropriate for courses that have very large enrollments. This

method of assessment may be the only way to get any data from classes with large numbers of students. Short-answer essay or papers are better for classes with lower enrollments - students cannot accidentally guess the correct answer.

- ii. If a program must pick one point in time to conduct assessment, it should be at the end. The ultimate goal is to understand what a student knows by the time they graduate. However, by only assessing at the end, there is no opportunity to further educate the student if their knowledge base is not where it should be.
- iii. The AAC should review what the program originally submitted to BOR. Then support the how the program planned to conduct assessment.

- e) NECHE requires non-externally accredited programs to go through the Program Review process with an external reviewer. CCSU utilizes a 5-yr cycle.
- f) Important reminder when reviewing reports - NECHE requires that all stated LOs be assessed. OIRA recommends that departments consider limiting the number of LOs to a range of 3-5 so that the assessments are manageable and not as burdensome. Programs may include more, but they should be measurable and have a way to assess them.

III. Bylaw revisions – revisit the next meeting. Subcommittees – members assigned

1. *Report Form & Template* - Eric D, Alfredo R., Michael T.
2. *Rubric & Manual Alignment* – Heather D, Shannon H., Carolyne S.
3. *Workshop Development & Faculty Support* – Silvia C., Heidi H., Kurt L., Ravindra T.
4. *General Education Assessment* – Nicole B., Martha K., Kristine L.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM