

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs
Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



August 23, 2017

2017-18 Council for Learning Outcomes Assessment:

Cheryl Hanley-Maxwell, AHS, <i>Chair*</i>	Min Zhan, School of Social Work*
Anna Dilger, ACES	Dawn Morin, VetMed
Xiaoling (Clare) Chen, BUS	Jen-chien Yu, University Library*
Jenny Amos, Carle Illinois COM*	Julia Makela, Student Affairs*
Luc Paquette, EDU*	Isabel Molina, Graduate College
Matthew West, ENGR*	Eric Meyer, Senate
Linda Robbennolt, FAA*	George Gollin, General Education Board
Kelly Ritter, LAS	TBD, Undergraduate Student*
Colleen Murphy, LAW	Kirsten Phelps, Graduate Student
Ryan Lamare, LER*	Michel Bellini, CITL
Linda C. Smith, LIS	Staci Provezis, Office of Provost, <i>ex officio</i>
Shachar Meron, Media*	

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your willingness to serve on the Council for Learning Outcomes Assessment. You were each nominated to serve on the Council by your dean or other unit leader because of your broad understanding of quality teaching and learning and commitment to continuous improvement of teaching and curricula.

Cheryl Hanley-Maxwell, Dean of the College of Applied Health Sciences, has agreed to chair this Council. Staci Provezis, the Associate Provost for Academic Effectiveness, will support the Council. A member of my staff will contact you shortly to schedule meetings.

Many thanks to the inaugural members of this group who have successfully launched the assessment work on campus. Some are continuing on the Council, while others (Wynne Korr, Kim Graber, Jessica Li, Erhan Kudeki, Louis Bergonzi, Daniel Newman, Stephen Altaner, Ann Reisner, Phyllis Baker, and Spencer Haydary) are rotating off the Council. I welcome all new members to the group, who are noted with an asterisk in the list above. All new members have been asked for a three-year commitment and the continuing members are in a staggered year commitment to allow for continuity.

Our campus is committed to the educational achievement of our students, and we strive to offer educational programs that are of the highest quality. A regular and thoughtful practice of articulating and assessing student learning outcomes allows for our campus to ensure that our graduates are receiving the world-class education that we promise. We are increasingly called on to demonstrate that our students have met certain learning goals, and to continuously review and affirm or improve our curricula based on feedback obtained through assessment.

The initial role of the Council will be to foster a practice of assessment that is ongoing and meaningful to campus units. Our assessment efforts should also satisfy the needs of program and institutional accreditation. Over the long term I expect the Council to coordinate the assessment of student learning at Illinois, both at the institutional level and at the unit level, assuring that learning goals have been identified, that continuous evaluation is occurring, and that the evidence from those evaluations is being used to improve educational quality when needed.

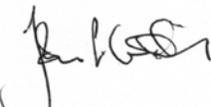
In this, as in all of your work, I ask you to respect the variety of goals and types of evidence of student learning that may be appropriate across different programs.

For the 2017-18 academic year, I ask you to:

- Familiarize yourselves with the expectations of the Higher Learning Commission, our regional accreditor, around assessment.
- Communicate with the campus community about the expectations for assessment, including expectations related to regional accreditation.
- Continue to collect assessment materials and reports from across campus to serve as examples of assessment practices, to assure that units are actively engaged in examining educational quality, and to fulfill the expectations of accreditation with a particular focus on graduate education.
- Provide evaluations of the UG assessment reports using a rubric previously designed by C-LOA.
- Guide the assessment of campus-wide learning outcomes for undergraduate students, by considering the role of general education and its assessment.
- Recommend policy changes that might be needed to ensure that outcomes assessment on campus is ongoing, effective and meaningful.

I thank you in advance for your work on this important task.

Sincerely,



John P. Wilkin
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost

c: Council of Deans
Danita Young
Kristi Kuntz
Amy Edwards