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**FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW  
PROCEDURE CHANGES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Receive the follow-up report on academic program review procedure changes resulting from the academic program review audit at the University of Northern Iowa.

**Executive Summary:** In June 2006, the Board of Regents requested that the University of Northern Iowa prepare a follow-up report on the implementation of academic program review procedure changes. The University was asked to include details about the implementation of the academic program review procedure changes, as well as the role of the new Office of Academic Assessment to provide leadership for planning and implementing student outcomes assessment processes, program review, and other procedures that support academic program improvement, student learning, and accreditation.

The University identified the following components related to implementing the academic program review procedure changes:

- ◆ The Committee on Academic Program Review (CAPR) revised the academic program review procedures to place greater emphasis on reporting learning outcomes and assessment measures. There is particular emphasis on the analysis of student outcomes assessment results and reporting changes that have been made in academic programs as a result of student outcomes assessment findings.
- ◆ The Office of Institutional Research and the Registrar's Office, along with the new Office of Academic Assessment (OAA), consult with the departments to provide appropriate data for program review.
- ◆ Revisions in the program review procedures encourage deans to finalize invitations to external reviewers before the end of the fall semester.
- ◆ Deans continue to work with departments to determine appropriate schedules for external review visits, including deans' exit interviews with reviewers.
- ◆ Scheduling of interdisciplinary programs for academic program review was reviewed and the CAPR has enhanced communication about the review of interdisciplinary programs.
- ◆ The OAA provides leadership and in-service education for faculty regarding student outcomes assessment. Its mission is to provide leadership for planning and implementing student outcomes assessment, academic program review, and other procedures that support program improvement, student learning, and accreditation.
  - ☑ Communication regarding program review procedures and expectations was enhanced through informational meetings provided each spring targeted especially to department heads, faculty self-study coordinators, and others who have been designated to lead program review efforts in the following year.
  - ☑ The OAA is located in the newly-renovated Innovative Teaching and Technology Center in close proximity to the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching, and the Center for Educational Technology, both of which also assist in program improvement.

- ☑ In the first year of operation, the OAA built an infrastructure for enhanced assessment effort; identified and provided resources for assessment to faculty, administrators, and students; and built collaborative relationships across the campus to support assessment activities. The newly-created OAA website ([www.uni.edu/assessment](http://www.uni.edu/assessment)) serves as the central resource for the campus regarding academic assessment. Examples of resources include principles of good practice for assessing student learning and an assessment bibliography.
- ☑ The OAA director works with departmental representatives and assessment committees in all of the colleges to enhance assessment processes. Departments have been asked to submit their outcomes assessment plans to the OAA and will be shared on a password-protected website across departments.
- ☑ The OAA is conducting a survey of assessment-related policies and practices at the departmental level.
- ☑ Prior to submitting statements of learning outcomes for each major to the OAA in May 2007, the OAA is providing college-level workshops during Spring 2007 to support departments in their review of learning outcomes statements. Resources for developing student outcomes assessment plans have been made available on the OAA website; presentations and individual consultations for academic departments are being offered.
- ☑ The OAA director and a team of UNI faculty participated in a Higher Learning Commission-sponsored "Academy for Assessment of Student Learning."