Educational Technology Leadership Group (ETLG): Evaluation, Assessment and Accreditation (EAA) Working Group

Summary Report 2012-2013

Chair: Joanne Valli-Meredith, UC Los Angeles
Vice Chair: Rebecca Peet, UC Santa Cruz
Primary Liaison: Larry Loeher, UC Los Angeles
Secondary Liaison: George Michaels, UC Santa Barbara
Members: Lisa Berry, UC Santa Barbara
                        Allison Cantwell, UC Riverside
                        Sylvia DeCourcey, UC San Francisco
                        Karen Dunn-Haley, UC Davis
                        De Gallow, UC Irvine
                        Kumiko Haas, UC Los Angeles
                        Stephen Hamilton, UC San Diego
                        Marc Levis-Fitzgerald, UC Los Angeles
                        Justin Lipp, UC Berkeley
                        Laura Martin, UC Merced
                        Chandler Mayfield, UC San Francisco
                        Jim Phillips, UC Santa Cruz
                        Lisa Rothrauff, UC Berkeley
                        Leo Schouest, UC Riverside
                        Cynthia Schrager, UC Berkeley
                        Adriana Signorini, UC Merced
                        Venette Van Duyn, UC Irvine
                        Yukiko Watanabe, UC Berkeley
                        Anne Zanzucchi, UC Merced

Meetings and Participation

The EAA working group held three phone meetings during the 2012-2013 Academic Year to focus on ongoing issues and topics for discussion as delineated in our initial charge letter.

Topics of discussion

November 2012 Agenda:

- UC Berkeley EAA Annual Meeting Update
- History of the ETLG – How to position the EAA
- EAA Charge Letter

The call began with the brief overview of the August 2012 annual meeting, and participants were invited to comment.

A presentation of the history of the ETLG and a discussion of the EAA's position within the ETLG led to a spirited debate regarding the EAA's objectives.

A few participants were under the impression that the EAA's charge included, at least in part, official WASC-related agenda items due to the word "accreditation" in the EAA title. It was clarified that accreditation-related issues discussed in EAA are specific to educational technology and not part of an official WASC agenda or campus-wide accreditation.

There followed a brief discussion of EAA's charge and participants decided to redraft the charge letter and redact any potentially misleading language that implied the group provided official WASC-related support.

February 2013 Agenda:

- Update on the ETLG's activities
- Effective assessment practices for online education technologies
- Epigeum
- "Open-Mike" – an opportunity for our members to share campus-specific projects or concerns

Larry Loeher gave an overview of the ETLG's recent activities and then addressed the implication of the Regents' call for greater efficiency in teaching using online education.

Prior to the call, participants were asked to prepare by identifying teaching and learning technologies of interest to their specific campuses that might benefit from evaluation and assessment. During the course of the resulting discussion, concern was expressed regarding possible overlap between the responsibilities of the EAA and the IDFS, specifically with respect to evaluation and assessment practices. A decision was made to check with IDFS to determine whether this is, in fact, the case. There was further discussion of the distinction between employing teaching methods versus assessing them, as well as the differences among course, program and institutional level assessment.

A short discussion regarding Epigeum indicated that none of the participants had strong feelings one way or another regarding the program.

When asked to share campus-specific projects or concerns, a number of participants expressed the view that UC-wide assessment efforts should address the effects of socioeconomic background on success with online education technologies. A decision was made to research the topic for discussion at the May meeting.

May 2013 Agenda:

- IDFS overview: IDFS Chair Kim DeBacco
- Whether and how socioeconomic status affects online learning success
- Article discussion: Inside Higher Ed "Education research and the pace of innovation"

Kim DeBacco reported on the activities of the IDFS working group and expressed an interest in getting support on evaluation and assessment from the EAA. She confirmed that there was no overlap between the IDSF and the EAA with regard to assessment efforts. There was a long and productive discussion of how the two working groups could support one another's objectives going forward.

Due to the length of this discussion, the two other agenda items needed to be deferred to the next meeting.

2013-2014 Recommendations

- Increase productivity by shifting from regularly scheduled calls to specific projects based on the needs of the ETLG and/or the IDFS.
- If budget permits, schedule one face-to-face meeting per year to maintain close working relationships and share experience and expertise.
- Remove the word "accreditation" from the EAA working group's title to distinguish it from WASC-related entities.