

University Academic Assessment Committee (UAAC) Report to the Faculty Senate Academic Year 2023-2024

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the University Academic Assessment Committee (UAAC) met monthly—3 times in Fall 2023 and 4 times in Spring 2024—for a total of seven times. While no specific charges were made of the UAAC from Faculty Senate, the committee did need to address several issues related to the committee’s role to “serve as both an advisory and an assessment coordination body on all matters related to academic assessment at the University as a whole” (Faculty Senate Bylaws, Article VII, Section 14). Those activities in the 2023-2-24 Academic Year generally involved providing advisory feedback to work being done by the University Analysis, Reporting, and Assessment (UARA), including Gull Week assessment of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), Middle States Self-Study review accomplishments, and updating the Academic Program Review (APR) Guidelines paperwork. Academic. Additional activities by UAAC related to the assessment component of SU’s transition to the new General Education Curriculum in Fall 2024.

General Education Assessment

As courses are approved by the General Education Oversight Committee (GEOC), one significant component of each course evaluation includes how it directly addresses the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) identified for each GEOC category. The involvement of the UAAC in this process is consistent with a specific duty assigned to the committee as part of the Faculty Senate Bylaws; “B. Articulate and update, in coordination with the General Education Oversight Committee, a coherent plan for ongoing assessment of the General Education curriculum” (Article VII, Section 14). Anticipated impacts of future SLO assessment processes include the probable transition from the current Gull Week model to a model integrated within courses, for example assessing all students enrolled in First Year Seminar (FYS) courses to record baseline SLO proficiency as students begin their academic career at Salisbury University.

Gull Week Assessment

As part on an existing model of assessing SLOs at Salisbury University, the Gull Week assessment activities occurred early in Fall 2023 and summary reports of those assessments were drafted in collaboration between UARA and UAAC. Over 2500 students signed-up to participate in these assessment procedures which focused this year on the SLOs of Informational Literacy (IL) and Environmental Sustainability (ES). Drafts of two documents were created by UARA and, after receiving feedback during UAAC meetings, the wording of the documents were finalized in Spring 2023. One document is a detailed, 21-page Report of the findings and the additional document is a 2-page Overview. Copies of those documents will be added to the UARA website in the coming months; <https://www.salisbury.edu/administration/university-analysis-reporting-and-assessment/>

Middle States Self-Study

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) is an institutional accreditor recognized by the United States Department of Education that serves as an independent voice in higher education. As an institutional accreditor, MSCHE requires evaluation of all aspects of the institution and Salisbury University is currently in the process of preparing their 2025 Reaccreditation Self-Study. As this process is coordinated by UARA, UAAC's role in this process is primarily an advisory one, with additional expectations of facilitating campus awareness of the process, particularly as it related to faculty involvement on committees. All milestones of this Self-Study Design Plan are being met with the Final Report expected to be completed before Fall 2024. Additional details are available on the website <https://www.salisbury.edu/administration/president/accreditation/2025-middle-states/self-study-design-plan.aspx>

Academic Program Review Guidelines

The Academic Program Review (APR) process at Salisbury University is an ongoing effort involving coordination between each academic unit at SU and UARA. As part of their responsibilities in this process, UARA is tasked with providing guidelines to the academic units as they complete each step of the program review. The need for revisions of the guidelines were identified by UARA during this academic year, including a dramatic reduction in the length of the document, the elimination of redundant requirements, and the addition of elements that did not previously exist in the document. Those new elements include a method of reporting Diversity efforts within the academic unit and the creation of a Warning Status process to allow UARA to notify academic units earlier in the review process if additional assessment procedures need to be implemented. Final wording of these revised Guidelines were discussed and approved by UAAC in April 2024 and the university Provost will be presenting the document to Faculty Senate as soon as the FS schedule permits; it is likely this document will be discussed by the Faculty Senate Summer Advisory Committee during Summer 2024.

Committee membership during 2023-2024 Academic year

Thomas Lamey, RESP, 22-25, CHHS

Lance Garmon (Chair), PSYC, 22-25, Fulton

Vacant, ----, 23-26, Henson

James Parrigin, LIBR, 22-24, Library

Rachel Buchanan, SOWK, 21-24, At-Large (for Perdue)*

Vacant, ----, 23-26, Seidel

Zachary Townsend, EXSC, 23-26, At-Large

Designated Senator: Steven Binz (Spring 2024) & J. Michael Desper (Fall 2023)

University Analysis, Reporting & Assessment (UARA) members

Kara Raab: Associate Vice President for Planning & Assessment

Lane Ent Mister: Data Management Specialist

Aaron Prebenda: Coordinator, Assessment

Student Government Association representative

Kieran Bethke (Spring 2024) & Kendall King (Fall 2023)