Outcomes Assessment Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 7, 2016, 1:00pm, Provost’s Conference Room

Attendees: Richard Bodnar, Dee Clayman, Laurel Eckhardt, Kara Eubanks, Mario DiGangi, Robert Hatcher, Darryl Hill, John Greenwood, Jennifer Kobrin, David Olan, Barbara Weinstein.

1. John Greenwood welcomed new committee members, Richard Bodnar and Dee Clayman, as well as GC’s new Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (DIR), Jennifer Kobrin.

2. Kara Eubanks summarized the most recent activity in the assessment process: The Graduate Center reported its highest-ever participation rate in 2015–2016: 92% of programs asked to report did so. Another record high, 42% of reporting programs reviewed more than one area of assessment. The current year’s assessment requests went out on September 1. 2016–2017 is the last year of the five-year assessment cycle. Two programs have already completed all required assessment reviews. Twenty-nine programs participate in GC assessment, and three do not: Audiology, Business, and Public Health. Kara mentioned that she and DIR Jennifer Kobrin discussed whether it was appropriate for these programs to be exempt from GC assessment, and if the same exception should apply to any other programs. Of the twenty-seven programs reporting this year, seventeen must complete more than one report to finish the cycle. Seven of those, however, only need to report on Professional Development and Ethics, which are often submitted as a unit. Six programs have more than two reports to complete, and thus far, no program has ever done more than two reports in a year. Four programs have the opportunity to take a five-year follow-up meeting with either David Olan or Joshua Brumberg to discuss their program’s developments since their last External Periodic Review. This is a new procedure this year; previously, programs were required to submit a report detailing their progress since their last external program review (EPR).

3. John Greenwood commented that this year, rather than the Outcomes Assessment Committee reminding EOs to have their faculty and GTFs include learning goals on syllabi, this encouragement should be communicated by the Provost’s Office to EOs at cluster meetings.

4. Jennifer Kobrin presented a new assessment framework to the committee, called Evidence Centered Design. This method aligns learning outcomes with assessments through measurable evidence. Programs identify what claims (outcomes, or goals) they wish to make about their students, then they identify what evidence would support their claims. Evidence must be specific: it must say what a student must say, do, or create in order to demonstrate that a learning outcome is attained. Evidence must also be quantifiable: it must demonstrate how much or what level of achievement proves a claim. Programs then design tools and assessments that measure their students’ achievements. The committee agreed that Evidence Centered Design would benefit GC assessment.

5. The committee agreed it would be beneficial to meet again soon to discuss ECD further. Kara Eubanks will schedule the next meeting for ~6 weeks from the current meeting date.