

In the Loop

Bi-annual Newsletter from the University Assessment Committee



"Sparklers" by Andrew Huff, flickr Creative Commons

Welcome from the Chair

Hello Colleagues,

I am excited to introduce the first issue of *In the Loop*, the bi-annual newsletter of the **University Assessment Committee (UAC)**.

The UAC is guided by the principle that effective and meaningful assessment is an integral part of the educational process. Strategic and systematic institutional assessment supports the mission and values of the university by assuring that USF's academic and co-curricular programs are of the highest quality, and effectively prepare students to both succeed in their chosen field of study and vocation, as well as contribute meaningfully to the common good.

In keeping with its charge, the UAC hopes *In the Loop* will promote knowledge of ongoing assessment across the university, and inspire reflection and engagement in academic and co-curricular assessment within your program, department, or team.

You can expect three sections in each edition:

- The **Upcoming Events** section will spotlight upcoming assessment-related events, including the second annual Celebration of Assessment on Nov. 12. I hope you can join us for lunch and discussion of the impressive assessment work that is being done across the university.
- **Magis Methods** features tips and resources that staff or faculty can use in their assessment work.
- In **Notes from the Field**, a faculty member, staff member, or campus team will highlight their experiences, challenges, and successes in recent assessment.

The committee hopes you will consider submitting suggestions, ideas, and stories about your experiences related to assessment. The next issue will be published in spring 2020.

Warm regards,
Deborah Panter, JD
Associate Vice Provost
for Educational Effectiveness



Mardy Harding/San Francisco Foghorn

Deborah Panter at the student
Q&A session for the WSCUC
Re-Accreditation Visit

Announcements

USF Assessment-Related Activities and Events

Nov. 12, 11:45 a.m.–2 p.m., McLaren 252

Celebration of Assessment: Understanding Student Learning Through Assessment

Have lunch with colleagues and discuss topics related to assessment. Hear assessment success stories in academic programs and student life. Learn about current data on student voting. All are welcome. The event is brought to you by the Office of Assessment and Accreditation Support and the University Assessment Committee.



Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Shirley McGuire speaks at the 2018 Annual Celebration of Assessment

[RSVP to Assessment Day »](#)

Magis Methods

Need Resources for Assessing Learning Outcomes? Check out NILOA!



The National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA) is "a research and resource-development organization, dedicated to documenting, advocating, and facilitating the systematic use of learning outcomes assessment to improve student learning" (NILOA website). The NILOA website provides a plethora of useful information and resources specific to the assessment of learning outcomes. This includes a publications link with a **repository of examples of Assessment in Practice**. It includes examples of processes and practices organized in the following categories:

- General Education
- Engagement and Professional Development Activities
- Student Affairs and Administrative Units Reporting and Assessment
- Assessment Frameworks and Approaches
- Assessment Cycles and Reporting

Other resources in the **Publications Link** include:

- Reports on research to examine student learning outcomes assessment in higher education
- Occasional papers examining the current practices in learning outcome assessment
- Viewpoints from thought leaders in higher education
- Case studies showcasing instructive examples of assessment
- Books on reframed conceptions and approaches to assessment of learning outcomes
- Presentations by NILOA staff and senior scholars

Notes from the Field

Reflection and Direction from Gleesson | Geschke's Program Review Submitted by Shawn Calhoun and Erika Johnson



The Gleeson Library | Geschke Center staff completed our most recent **program review in 2017**. From that process, we not only gained important insights into our educational project and how it best fits into USF's larger educational mission, we also experienced firsthand how critical it is to have organization-wide engagement from both faculty and staff.

While our program review helped us begin the process of thinking about learning outcomes across our curriculum as well as the various business and technology units within the library, our biggest challenge post-program review was answering the "what next" question. From the program review we had solid insights into our collective work, but finding a clear, practical path from the general nature of our program review to specific actionable steps was challenging. For example, our program review called for a reevaluation of our internal technology systems as well as how we assess learning outcomes. Great. But how?

The path Gleeson chose was to engage in a rigorous **strategic planning process**, wherein we would craft specific tactics linked to what we learned from our program review. The library is now beginning to focus on specific tactics and work needed to accomplish the objectives set out in our strategic plan.

While we have learned many important lessons from the program review and strategic planning process, one of the most important takeaways is that we have strived to address the critical nature of staff engagement and building their contributions into our process. Library faculty and staff are now working more closely and collaboratively across some of the traditional silos found in academic libraries. We have teams working toward concrete solutions to challenges such as how we can better measure educational outcomes related to student research skills.

Like every academic and cocurricular area on campus, Gleeson Library has a busy year ahead. We are excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie before us as we navigate building and implementing impactful responses to our program review and subsequent strategic plan.

Submit to *In the Loop*

Our next edition is spring 2020. We want to feature your assessment experiences. Please email your ideas to **Katie Hoffman**.

If you are looking for support with academic and co-curricular program reviews or for assessment of learning outcomes, the Office of Assessment and Accreditation Support (OAAS) is a resource to you. Please **email Deborah Panter**, call **(415) 422-4588**, or **visit the OAAS website** for more information.

Join the conversation **#USFCA**



 **UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO**
Office of Assessment and Accreditation Support

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