



University Assessment Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

3:30-4:30pm

West Hall 1002

www.valdosta.edu/uac

Mission Statement

To foster an environment of continuous improvement in student learning and provision of services to the VSU community through the use of active, ongoing, and constructive assessments.

Present: Michael Black, Michele Blankenship, Hanae Kanno, Talley Mulligan, Josh Pifer, Emily Rogers, Leah Toth, Terence Sullivan, Susan Walden

Absent: Sudip Chakraborty, Luis Gonzalez, Yvonne LeRoy-Landers

Dr. Black called the meeting to order at 3:31pm.

I. Committee members introduced themselves

II. Committee approved December 2, 2024 minutes. They are posted at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/university-assessment-committee/documents/uac-minutes-120224.pdf> Due to a cyberattack and snowstorm, the committee did not formally meet in Spring 2025.

III. Reviewed background of the UAC and how it serves the University

UAC members assist our institution by improving assessment reporting procedures as well as evaluate the assessments themselves to ensure that departments are collecting meaningful data and using it for continuous improvement of their programs.

- Regional accreditation requires institutional commitment to the concept of quality enhancement through continuous assessment and improvement.

SACSCOC Standard 7 and 8

- 7.1. The institution engages in ongoing, comprehensive, and integrated research-based planning and evaluation processes that (a) focus on institutional quality and effectiveness and (b) incorporate a systematic review of institutional goals and outcomes consistent with its mission. (Institutional Planning)
- 7.3. The institution identifies expected outcomes of its administrative support services and demonstrates the extent to which the outcomes are achieved. (Administrative effectiveness)
- 8.2. The institution identifies expected outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provides evidence of seeking improvement based on analysis of the results in the areas below:
 - A. Student learning outcomes for each of its educational programs. (Student outcomes: educational programs)
 - B. Student learning outcomes for collegiate-level general education competencies of its undergraduate degree programs. (Student outcomes: general education)
 - C. Academic and student services that support student success. (Student outcomes: academic and student services)

- What are the Responsibilities of Committee Members?
 - Review (independently or as a team) institutional effectiveness reports and plans collected in fall semester by applying an online checklist and by the agreed upon deadline
 - Provide feedback and support to departments about their assessment programs and activities
 - Create and sustain an institutional culture of assessment in each department, college, and administrative division
 - Communicate with faculty and staff about promising assessment models and promote unit/program ownership of the assessment process
 - Apply expertise in assessment through a proactive, collaborative, practical, honest, and candid approach
 - Encourage alignment of assessment activities to learning outcomes or program outcomes
 - Coordinate and communicate with the General Education Council about student learning and core curriculum assessment
 - Recommend training materials to support student learning and/or planning
 - Commit to attending all scheduled meetings

IV. Summarized Summer IE and UAC Activities for the Committee

- Emailed memo to campus requesting IERs and IEPs (July 30, 2025).
 - Posted at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/university-assessment-committee/>
 - Reached out to new program coordinators, new department heads, and new unit directors to inform them about the IE process at VSU.
- Offered two virtual sessions on Preparing the IER and IEP (Aug. 28 and Sept. 3, 2025).
- Comprehensive Program Review Orientation Meeting held Sept. 5, 2025
- Participated in a University of Utah survey on general education assessment in March 2025 (results shared 08/08/2025)
- Began work on items related to the VSU and Academic Affairs Strategic Plans
- Prepared summary of new INQR course assessment for General Education Council (Fall '24 and Spring '25)
- Began drafting QEP Impact Report (plan to finish after Spring 2026)
- Drafted Artificial Intelligence Acceptable Use Policy

V. Discussed UAC Business and Plans for 2025-26

- Review of 2024-25 IERs and 2025-26 IEPs
 - Request memo sent to departments and units (July 30, 2025)
 - Collected IERs and IEPs as of 09/12/2025: 4 of 126 (3.1%)
 - There is a decrease in the number of reports this cycle due to the deactivation of several programs last year.
 - Review of file locations (V:\dept\Institutional_Effectiveness\Assessment Reports)
 - Targeted deadline for reviews: December 15, 2025
 - 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 reports will be shared with external reviewers in next SACSCOC Interim Report
 - Assignments for IER and IEP (distributed)
 - Recommendations for Preparing the IER and IEP (emailed to committee 09/12/25)
 - Group training for two reports (distributed)

- In Spring 2026, we will organize a small committee to help prepare the SACSCOC Interim Report (due March 2027)
- General discussion about proposed new accrediting body called the Commission for Public Higher Education

VI. Shared upcoming announcements and workshops

- Registration is open for the 2025 Assessment Institute, Oct. 26-28, 2025, Indianapolis. See <https://assessmentinstitute.iupui.edu/registration/index.html>
 - See the wide variety of sessions offered here from prior years with handouts: <https://assessmentinstitute.indianapolis.iu.edu/program/handouts.html>
- USG RACEA will hold virtual meetings on Oct. 7 (10:00-12:00pm) and Oct. 8 (1:00-3:00pm) (I can share the agenda and link once I have it)
- Fall Experiential Learning Expo will be Nov. 18, 2025
- Handout on locating program and institutional data (will be emailed to committee members on 09/18/25)
- USG requirement to add additional information to faculty profile pages (see https://www.usg.edu/academic_affairs_handbook/section2/C757#p2_8_2_posting_of_public_curriculum_vitae)
- Work has started on the VSU's website redesign. More in Spring 2026.

VII. UAC Meeting Schedule for Fall 2025

- Oct. 21, 2025, 11:00-12:00, West Hall 1002
- Nov. 17, 2025, 1:30-2:30, West Hall 1002

What if I cannot attend the meeting? Consider sending a representative for your unit. All UAC meetings are open meetings and guests are welcome.

VIII. Adjourned at 4:33pm