University Assessment Committee

Minutes

Monday, September 28, 2026
10:00-11:00am
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, Susan Walden, Sudip Chakraborty, Hanae Kanno, Talley Mulligan, Jeb Sharp, Emily Rogers, Yvonne Landers, Britt-Marie Piper, Rosalyn Martinez
Absent: Josh Pifer

Dr. Black called the meeting to order at 10:03am.

I. Welcomed and Introduced Members for 2026-27

- Michael Black, Chair, Director, Institutional Effectiveness
- Susan Walden, Chair, Director, Professional Education Services, COEHS
- Sudip Chakraborty, Professor of Computer Science
- Hanae Kanno, Associate Professor of Social Work
- Talley Mulligan, Associate Professor of Mass Media
- Josh Pifer, Associate Professor of Music
- Jeb Sharp, Assistant Professor of English
- Emily Rogers, Professor and Reference Librarian, Odum Library
- Yvonne LeRoy-Landers, Associate to the Vice President, Finance and Administration
- Britt-Marie Piper, Academic Advisor, University Advising
- Rosalyn Martinez, Program Coordinator, Graduate School

Members share positive news with the group.

II. Approved Apr. 29, 2026 minutes

Emailed to committee members 09/23/26 and posted at https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/university-assessment-committee/documents/uac-minutes-042926.pdf

III. Reviewed Committee Service to 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. Accreditation requires institutional commitment to the concept of quality enhancement through continuous assessment and improvement.

- **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. Reviewed UAC Summer Activities

- Emailed memo to academic unit requesting IERs and IEPs (July 30, 2026).
  - 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. 24 and Sept. 1, 2026).
- Prepared summary of INQR course assessment for General Education Council (Fall '25 and Spring '26)
- Currently drafting our SACSOC Fifth-Year Interim Report
  - Comprised of 24 standards
  - All standards have a draft written
  - Plan for November 30th meeting to be a working meeting to review and proofread narratives.
- Closely monitoring changes to SACSCOC principles of accreditation (discussed below)

V. Discussed UAC Business and Plans for Year 2026-27

- Upcoming and important changes: The Principles of Accreditation: The Standards for Accreditation and Reaffirmation – Draft 2: September 21, 2026. Will be voted in December 2026. The revised standards will significantly impact the work of our committee.

5. Sound Institutional Planning

The institution demonstrates systematic, integrated, and data-informed multi-year planning to enhance institutional effectiveness and ensure long-term sustainability and mission fulfillment. Planning includes (a) an approved plan with clearly articulated goals consistent with the institution's mission, (b) a regular review of the plan to determine the institution's progress toward attainment of its goals, (c) a deliberate connection between the plan and an institutional financial plan grounded in realistic and clearly documented revenue and expenditure assumptions, and (d) engagement with appropriate stakeholders.

*15. Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

For each of its educational programs, the institution (a) identifies specific, measurable student learning outcomes which describe the knowledge, skills, or competencies students are expected to achieve upon successful completion, (b) periodically reviews program-level student-learning outcomes to ensure they remain current, relevant, and, where applicable, aligned with professional standards, licensure or certification requirements, and (c) provides examples of the periodic processes used to determine whether students are achieving the identified program outcomes.

- Review 2025-26 IERs and 2026-27 IEPs
  - Request memo sent to academic departments (July 30, 2026)
  - Collected IERs and IEPs as of 09/23/2026: 3 of 87 (3.4%)
  - Review of file locations (V:\dept\Institutional_Effectiveness\Assessment Reports)
  - Targeted deadline for reviews: November 20, 2026
  - 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 reports will be shared with external reviewers in SACSCOC Interim Report
  - Recommendations for Preparing the IER and IEP (emailed to committee 09/23/26)
  - Assignments for IER and IEP (distributed by email)
- Group training for two reports and how to code results in shared spreadsheet
  - Spreadsheet will be shared via Onedrive after the meeting.

VI. Announcements/Workshops

- Fall Experiential Learning Expo: Nov. 9-10, 2026
- SACSCOC Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, Dec. 6-8, 2026
- New USG Chancellor selected: Tom Fanning

VII. UAC Meeting Schedule for Fall 2026

- Oct. 26, 2026, 10:00, West Hall 1002
- Nov. 30, 2026, 3:00, 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 11:15am.