

**2012 Committee**  
**October 19, 2009**  
**~ Meeting Summary ~**

**PUL Evaluation Update.** On September 17 each academic dean and associate dean of a school enrolling undergraduates received a set of instructions for developing a 5-year plan to evaluate student learning of PUL-related knowledge and skills in at least one section of each of the school's courses. On October 5 responses to some frequently asked questions about the process were sent to the same individuals. Sarah Baker summarized the PUL evaluation process at the October meeting of the Faculty Council. Baker and Kate Thedwall gathered and summarized reactions from five Gateway instructors who pilot-tested the PUL evaluation process during Summer II 2009. The most difficult aspect of the work, according to these instructors, was recording their evaluations of students' PUL-related knowledge and skills in the absence of a method for doing so in Oncourse. A temporary method has been developed by IMIR staff, but the Oncourse solution will not be available until February 2010.

Herron became the first school to complete and post its 5-year PUL evaluation plan. Informatics faculty have decided to evaluate students in every course every semester. Good progress in developing the evaluation schedules has been reported in several other schools, including Business, Science, SPEA, and Health Professions in the School of Medicine. Reports from faculty in several departments in Liberal Arts have raised questions about the process there. Missy Kubitschek will check with Marianne Wokeck and send us a report. (Subsequently, Kubitschek reported that SLA department chairs have received copies of the September 17 and October 5 email messages about the PUL evaluation process and that the process has been discussed at two meetings of SLA department chairs.)

**PUL Website in Academic Affairs.** Rick Jackson showed us an outline of the Website he is developing that will reside on the Academic Affairs Website. His aim is to have one place for faculty to go to learn as much as possible about the history of PUL development, definitions of the PULs, and how the PULs may be taught and assessed. Susan Kahn is developing a site focused on the self study for 2012 that will provide details and references related to the current PUL evaluation project. 2012 Committee members suggested that the Academic Affairs site will endure beyond the 2012 visit by a team appointed the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Accordingly, Jackson and Kahn were encouraged to confer about the best ways to develop and link the two sites.

**PUL Workshops.** Terri Tarr, Pratibha Varma-Nelson, and Susan Kahn described the workshops that the Center for Teaching and Learning has conducted to date to assist faculty in teaching and assessing student learning of PUL-related knowledge and skills. Attendance has been good, averaging 25 participants at each. Three more workshops are scheduled before this semester ends. To learn about these workshops, consult <http://nca.iupui.edu/>.

The workshops have revealed a good deal of difference in the depth of information faculty in different schools have received about the PUL evaluation project. Some faculty are in schools where accreditation has led to a culture in which assessment is valued, so faculty in these schools have a wealth of information to share about teaching and assessing student competence. Other participants say they haven't heard much about the PUL student evaluation project. It will be desirable to have examples and exercises for both advanced participants and novices in future workshops.

Some faculty attending the workshops have expressed concern about the different definitions that will be given to the student evaluation criteria in different courses, at different levels, and in various disciplines. In the absence of a true undergraduate curriculum committee with representation across academic units—as is present at the graduate level at IUPUI—decisions about setting uniform standards can only be made at the unit level.

Academic leaders in several units are interested in preparing adjunct faculty to teach and evaluate student learning of PUL-related knowledge and skills. Center for Teaching and Learning staff are planning to assist with this, as well as to continue offering the PUL-related workshop series as long as the workshops are needed. A needs assessment should be undertaken soon to see if interest in the workshops will wax or wane at the end of the current series.

**Faculty Communities of Practice.** The possibility of developing communities of practice where faculty interested in teaching and evaluating student learning of the PUL-related knowledge and skills is being considered. 2012 Committee members believe there may be interest and value in doing this, but to be successful, each community of practice needs to be given a clear charge.

**Team for NCA Annual Meeting.** Mary Fisher will lead a team to the April meeting in Chicago of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Other members identified include Pratibha Varma-Nelson, Jeff Watt, Karen Black, and Susan Kahn. Team members anticipate that a central funding source will cover their expenses.