The Faculty Voice in Assessment

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The UVM Assessment Initiative

• Goal: To establish systems to promote and support the assessment of student learning outcomes in our academic programs, including General Education

• Why:
  ➢ Improve our programs and student learning
  ➢ Meet expectations for institutional accreditation
What do we mean by “Assessment”? 

• Gathering useful information on students’ performance and using it to inform curricular and pedagogical revision 

• A collaborative effort: program faculty work together to identify key learning outcomes for their programs, look at student performance, and implement efforts to improve student achievement of those outcomes 

• Assessment done well tells us what to focus on in order to improve our programs and student learning outcomes
Four-Year Plan

2015-16  Establish baseline and launch support pilots

2016-17  Gen Ed assessment planning; strengthen program assessment

2017-18  Program assessment plans and Gen Ed assessment launched; gather/update data sets; NEASC self-study (assessment)

2018-19  Prepare for NEASC visit; support and plan for continuing assessment into the future
Assessment Initiative Timeline of Goals

2016 – E-series forms (baseline)

2017 – Assessment plans (initial)

2018 + Cyclical assessment processes
Our Goals for this year (Year 2)

• Increase the breadth, depth and quality of assessment planning and activities (degree programs and Gen Ed)

• Advance an inclusive process where many voices are represented as the NEASC self-study report is developed
Creating a Culture of Assessment

• Foster sustainable assessment plans that meet the needs of individual programs

• Provide training and support for “helpful assessment” that contributes to student learning outcomes and program quality, not just “checks the boxes”
Why should faculty care?

• The Assessment Initiative places responsibility for defining and evaluating student achievement at the degree program level firmly in faculty hands

• **Assessment processes should be developed and controlled by program faculty** as an expression of our dedication to student learning and to the programs of study we are creating and curating

• Assessment workshops:  [www.uvm.edu/assessment](http://www.uvm.edu/assessment)
Adding the Student Voice: Focus Groups

• UVM launched a student-led focus group initiative in Spring 2016, offering a support service for degree programs and Gen Ed assessment

• Trained student moderators draft questions, conduct the groups, analyze the results and present them in a report

• So far, 10 separate projects have engaged students on topics as diverse as their experience of Gen Ed requirements, first year experiences, and progress through their degree programs

- Presented by Abra Clawson, Maeve McDerrmott and Felix Torres
Questions?

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