

OHE Assessment Process
LOOC Meeting 2/18/09: Follow-up

A recommendation was made to draft a memo to the Office of Higher Education, on behalf of LOOC, requesting information which would address concerns about the current status of the OHE assessment process. The goal is to better understand and possibly affect the existing reporting process. Areas of concern included:

- **Review of the ranking process currently used to evaluate OHE reports:**
 - Who actually conducts the evaluations and assigns the program rankings now? In the past?
 - Are there feedback mechanisms in place to:
 1. Inform the program of their rank, (who is told, when they are told),
 2. Offer explanations for the rank including constructive suggestions for “next steps” (how a program with a rank of 2 or 3 can improve to a rank of 1; where a program with a rank of 1 might next focus; constructive insight into how a program might proceed from any rank?
 3. Communicate the information with the student body
 - The rank assignment should be clear and consistent: does a rank indicate the *same* level of achievement for all assigned that rank, or can there be varying levels of achievement within a rank (ranks cannot be a ‘one size fits all’ because assessment is not regulated).
 - Assessment “ranking” implies a value judgment of a moment in time especially when programs are viewed together in the published documents; suggest “stage” be substituted for “rank”, to imply assessment as a process that can and should be ongoing.

- **Representation of programs at ASAC meetings:**
 - Were program presentations temporarily or permanently suspended? Concerns about presentations are on two levels:
 - Many programs were required to formally present which added to the effort needed to complete the process. It seemed inconsistent for other programs to be waived of this responsibility, with reports accepted based on a motion to ASAC.
 - The process should allow program faculty or program assessment members to be present to answer questions about their programs and be available to engage in discussions.

- **Reporting timeline:**
 - Will there be opportunity to provide input on the development of a reporting timeline for undergraduate programs (new and returning), and the cycling in of graduate programs, going forward?

- **Reporting form:**
 - Will there be an opportunity to provide input on the redesign for the OHE reporting form?
 - Can nationally accredited programs substitute an accrediting body’s program assessment form?

- **Report results (content/rankings/data):**
 - Disconnect between rankings (without narrative) published on the OHE website, while reports and rankings are not publicly available at URI.