

### Purpose of the agenda item:

Significant assessment overhaul is needed. The agenda committee presents this document as a ***discussion item, not a voting item***. Our hope is to discuss the issues and a tentative plan at the March meeting, then vote on a concrete proposal (including bylaws amendment) at the April meeting. This will allow for discussion and refinement of the assessment overhaul plans between March and April.

### Background:

Faculty have complained for years that our assessment system does not work effectively. Currently, the VCAA leads the Assessment Council, which reports to the Senate Assessment Committee. The Senate Assessment Committee conducts oversight by reporting to the Faculty (via the Senate) and by making recommendations back to the Assessment Council. This is inefficient and redundant, and leaves the VCAA ultimately in charge of assessment. At the Senior Faculty Retreat last December, those present agreed that assessment is a significant concern. Many of us remarked that faculty need to “own” assessment and “hold ourselves accountable.”

Additionally, Doug Eder has been hired as IUK’s Assessment Consultant and has met with council and committee members, the VCAA, the Chancellor, the Senate president, and others. He has added to these concerns the fact that our system is quite “unusual.” He has observed that the “two committee” structure is not common in academia, for the reasons described above. In summary, the Agenda Committee, the Assessment Committee, the Faculty Affairs Committee, the Chancellor, and the VCAA all agree that assessment needs a major overhaul.

### Discussion:

There are several possibilities for reform. The following is presented as a tentative plan, open to discussion, input, and revision.

1. Eliminate the Assessment Council
2. Change the mission of the Senate Assessment Committee.
  - a. The committee moves from oversight of the Council to the oversight of the entire assessment process. In other words, the VCAA is removed from “day to day” assessment activities.
  - b. The committee is constituted like all Senate committees, including the chair being nominated by the Senate president and confirmed by the committee.
  - c. The committee members would be responsible for representing and guiding those in their academic units who conduct assessment.
  - d. The committee will work closely with the Assessment Director.
3. The VCAA will appoint an Assessment Director, who will work in close consultation with the committee and its chair. This person would ideally be a tenured professor with release time.
  - a. The VCAA will, of course, maintain a level of oversight as the chief academic officer, primarily by appointing the Assessment Director.