Members Present: John Beard (Chair), Ellen Arnold, Teresa Burns, Judy Engelhard, Dodi Hodges, Tom Hoffman, Michael Latta, Jim Luken, Vivian McCain, Carol Osborne, Brianne Parker, Nelljean Rice, Barbara Ritter, John Steen, Deborah Vrooman

Members Absent: Chris Mee, Josh Vossler

Guests Present: Margaret Fain

I. Welcome and Introductions

John Beard, Chair, convened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. in 120 Arcadia Hall and welcomed all present.

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the meeting on September 7, 2011, were part of the packet distributed to all attendees. The Chair asked if any modifications to the minutes were recommended. A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was offered by Deborah Vrooman, seconded by Carol Osborne, and approved by the committee.

II. Recent Updates

A. Holly Legg – Holly was originally on the agenda to discuss TEAL Online but was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. Chairman Beard spoke with her, however, and related that, going forward, TEAL Online would be more visible to all interested parties. This means an increase in sharing data between colleges. Holly can allow access as requested. Also, it is recommended that colleges let Holly know when new faculty members need access to the system. In addition, when faculty no longer need access (they retire, leave for another job, etc.), it is important that Holly be notified so the system can be kept up to date.

B. Margaret Fain – Margaret, Chair, Core Curriculum Committee, addressed the group and discussed recent activities of that committee. The Core Curriculum Committee has been reviewing various issues related to the core and plans on making recommendations as needed. Specifically, the Core Curriculum Committee is reviewing assessment data and the Core mission statement. The committee is determining whether the mission statement relates to the knowledge goals and actual student learning outcomes. They are getting input from those concerned and determining how the mission statement might be improved. When asked for a timeline for these activities, Margaret indicated that a working draft of the mission statement would be available by the end of the semester.

C. Nelljean Rice and Brianne Parker, representing University College, presented an update on the activities of the college. Last year, when addressing this committee, everything being handled by this new college was discussed. This year, the focus was on top priorities, including the introduction of the Math Compass Test for student placement,
curricular changes focusing on critical thinking in UNIV 110, the creation of a Homesickness Committee, and the movement of the Interdisciplinary Studies major to University College. The top priorities for University College were identified and listed on the handout made available to all UWAC-SL members and included as part of these meeting minutes. Highlights include the expansion of the Interdisciplinary Studies major, the addition of two staff positions in the advising office, and improvements to tracking students participating in the Bridge Program.

III. Responses to 2010-2011 Assessment Results

A. College-Level Assessment Committees: Quick Responses for 2011-12 Plans?
All programs have been expected to create assessment plans, collect and assess data, and report on results using TEAL Online. Feedback on these activities, however, has not always been given on a regular basis to the participants. Each college has an assessment committee, and in most cases this group has been attempting to provide feedback to those submitting plans in TEAL Online. It is not necessarily the responsibility of the college assessment committee to suggest major revisions to plans, but instead to make helpful suggestions. The UWAC-Student Learning committee has the experience, interest, and knowledge to also make suggestions to those responsible for departmental assessment. This may not an activity that needs to occur every year, but the experience of this group might be beneficial to others working on assessment.

B. UWAC Student Learning Review by Groups
It was suggested by Chair Beard that Humanities committee members evaluate Science assessment reports and Science committee members review Humanities reports. It was also suggested that Business review Education reports, and Education members review those submitted by Business. It is essential that, due to the TEAL Online schedule, feedback be given this semester. The rubric created and used by this committee over the past few years is recommended as the tool to be used in the review of departmental reports. Chair Beard will review the current rubric, modify as needed and solicit feedback from the committee. Emphasis should be on how the analysis is conducted and how any use of results is implemented. Feedback in this area has sometimes been lacking in the past. Concern was expressed that changes to be made and identified in a given year are not tracked to determine whether the changes were really made or not.

In order to provide feedback in a timely manner, it was decided that the subgroups (Science, Humanities, Business and Education) use the revised rubric to assess the departmental reports from 2010-2011 and report findings at the November 2nd meeting. Each subgroup will determine how the work will be divided and results compiled.

IV. Adjourn

The next meeting of the UWAC – Student Learning committee will be November 2, 2011, at 2:00 in 120 Arcadia Hall. Rubric results will be discussed. In addition, Teresa Burns offered to update the committee on Core Curriculum data and assessment results.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.