

## University Academic Assessment Committee (UAAC) Report to the Faculty Senate Academic Year 2024-2025

During the 2024-2025 academic year, the University Academic Assessment Committee (UAAC) met monthly—two times during Fall 2024- and four-times during Spring 2025—for a total of six meetings. While no specific charges were made to the UAAC from Faculty Senate, the committee did address several issues related to the committee’s role to “serve as both an advisory and an assessment coordination body on all matters related to academic assessment at the University as a whole” (Faculty Senate Bylaws, Article VII, Section 14).

Those activities during the 2023-24 Academic Year generally involved providing advisory feedback to work being done by the University Analysis, Reporting, and Assessment (UARA), including Gull Week assessment of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), new assessment plan for the overhauled General Education model, Middle States Self-Study preparation, and Academic Program Review (APR) Guideline finalization.

As part of an existing model of assessing SLOs at Salisbury University, Gull Week assessment activities occurred from September 9<sup>th</sup> through September 16<sup>th</sup>, with summarized assessment reports drafted in collaboration between UARA and UAAC. 1,662 students signed-up to participate, with 1,473 students providing quality data. Targeted outcomes for GULL Week 2024 for assessment included the following essential competencies: (1) critical thinking and reasoning, (2) written communication, (3) effective reading, (4) inclusion and diversity, and (5) intercultural competence. Drafted data from GULL Week were shared between UARA and UAAC throughout the Fall/Spring semesters, culminating in a 14-page *GULL Week 2024: State of Learning* report that can be accessed [by clicking here](#). By the end of the Spring semester, UARA and UAAC colleagues were discussing possible avenues for GULL Week improvement, such as (1) models for assessment that permit an un-proctored setting for on-campus and at-distance students, (2) weighing pros and cons of a yearly versus every-other-year assessment plan, and (3) providing GULL Week reports that are more school/program specific (one-sheet) versus a full report that’s more generalized across the whole university.

As courses are approved by the General Education Oversight Committee (GEOC), one significant component of each course evaluation includes how it directly addresses the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) identified for each GEOC category. The involvement of the UAAC in this process is consistent with a specific duty assigned to the committee as part of the Faculty Senate Bylaws; “B. Articulate and update, in coordination with the General Education Oversight Committee, a coherent plan for ongoing assessment of the General Education curriculum” (Article VII, Section 14). Working in conjunction with colleagues in the GEOC, during Spring 2025 a motion was put forth by Faculty Senate representative Dr. Yuki Okubo titled *Pre and Post-Assessment of General Education designated courses* that sought to establish standing rules on General Education (new model) assessment centered around Sea Gull Start-up, First Flight, and GULL Week. Assessment of General Education will occur through collecting pre- and post-test data on all new incoming students. All assessments utilized for GULL Week are evaluated by UARA staff and faculty experts for reliability, validity, and alignment with SU’s General Education SLOs. The University Academic Assessment Committee (UAAC) serves as both an

advisory and an assessment coordinating body on all matters related to academic assessment at the University. The UAAC makes recommendations to the Faculty Senate and UARA concerning the development and implementation of assessment methods and use of assessment results. As of submission of this report, Faculty Senate business has not been conducted to finalize the motion.

Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) preparation occurred throughout Fall and early Spring, culminating in a UAAC/GEOC meeting with MSCHE representatives on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> during their campus visitation. Specific to this meeting were dialogues on two prominent topics: (1) how UAAC and GEOC work in terms of its governance for shared assessment, and (2) realized UAAC achievements since last self-study in 2016. Dialogues on these two topics centered on continual improvements associated with GULL Week assessment and the revised APR guidelines.

Stemming from UAAC/UARA work during 2023-2024 academic year, APR guidelines were presented to summer faculty senate (FS), but it became apparent full endorsement by FS was needed. The APR guidelines draft was presented to FS on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. After debate, the motion to accept the APR Guidelines passed: *Resolved that the Faculty Senate accepts the APR Guidelines and “moves boldly into the future”*. Current conversations between UAAC and UARA concerning APR guideline revisions are being deliberated. The current plan (via UARA) is to allow for two-to-three feedback cycles to occur, then share collective feedback with UAAC and decide if the recently approved guidelines need to be updated.