

Association for the Assessment
of Learning in Higher Education



President's Annual Report 2019-2020



AALHE Board of Directors Retreat, November, 2019

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Letter from the President

It would be very easy to define our past year by the challenges faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It certainly created hardships for most, tragedy for some, and disruption for all. My sincere condolences for all of you who lost loved ones to this horrible virus.

While it is impossible to avoid recognizing the impact of the pandemic, I also want to acknowledge all the work that went on prior to its arrival in our lives, as well as all the work that continued through the valiant efforts of the AALHE Board members and the many, many member volunteers.

I drafted this report to bring attention to the fact that the organization moved forward with several major initiatives this year. Key achievements include adopting a new vision, new values statements, new strategic goals, and a new broad foundational statement to define assessment. We embraced new technologies to assist our work including Basecamp, Member Clicks, QuickBooks, and Slack. We also entered into collaborations with the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment, the Grand Challenge Project out of the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, and Stylus Publishing.

The standing committees advanced the professionalism and value of AALHE membership in many ways that are outlined on the following pages. In listing the key contributors, I hesitated to add the names of all the committee members for fear of missing anyone. Please accept my apologies (and please notify me) if I missed you. I decided it was worth the risk to identify members who worked so tirelessly on behalf of this organization.

I must give a special shout-out to all of you who played a role in planning what amounted to TWO conferences – the original one in New Orleans and then the shift to AALHE 2020 Online. Your herculean efforts are very much appreciated.

In December 2019, Executive Director, Jamie Wigand, earned the Certified Association Executive credential, and we all benefit from the expertise she brings to AALHE.

Finally, I just want to say that it has been a privilege to have the opportunity to lead this organization during the past year. Thank you for all your contributions and your support.

Best wishes for a healthy, happy, and fulfilling year ahead.

Sincerely,

Jane Marie Souza

AALHE President 2019-2020

Vision

(Adopted April 2020)

The vision of the Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education is a world where quality assessment is a catalyst for learning.

Mission

Our mission is to develop and support a community of educators and inform assessment practices in higher education to foster and improve student learning and institutional quality.

Values Statement

Adopted April 2020

The values of the Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education are based upon the beliefs that our Association should actively improve the ability and opportunity of all individuals and groups to take part in all services and opportunities afforded by the Association and that our Association should promote ethical research and assessment practices that foster equity and inclusion.

The Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education values:

1. **Advocacy**

...promoting the value of quality assessment to the public for the purpose of effecting positive change.

2. **Community**

...fostering an environment of belonging through scholarship, engagement and networking to create a place where each person matters.

3. **Critical Reflection**

...welcoming diverse perspectives and honest, open dialogue to make decisions about the organization and the practices of assessment.

4. **Integrity**

...applying ethical standards and principles consistently and transparently.

5. **Scholarship**

...advancing the practice of assessment through inquiry using appropriate evidence-based methodologies.

6. **Social Justice**

...building intentional assessment systems that affirm all learners and assuring that these systems value the wisdom and ways of knowing of individuals and communities, especially those that have been historically devalued.

7. **Stewardship**

...managing human and fiscal resources responsibly for sustaining progress toward its mission now and into the future.

Strategic Goals (July 2020-December 2023)

Adopted April 2020

I. Cultivate a Community of Assessment Practitioners

The Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education will support assessment practitioners and cultivate a professional community.

II. Lead and Advocate for Assessment

The Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education will lead and advocate for assessment that will have a positive impact on higher education and its stakeholders now and into the future.

III. Provide a Quality Membership Experience

The Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education will continuously monitor and enhance the value of membership

IV. Increase and Diversify Revenue

The Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education will diversify revenue streams to mitigate risk and provide resources to support organizational success.

Foundational Statement #1: What is Assessment in Higher Education?

(Adopted by vote of membership January 2020)

Assessment is the process of collecting and analyzing information to determine if progress is being made toward a desired end. While this broad definition is applicable to a range of goals and organizational contexts, AALHE focuses on the assessment of student learning and institutional effectiveness within the context of higher education.

Student learning outcomes assessment is a process in which members of the higher education community identify what students should be able to do by the end of an educational unit and determine the degree to which they meet these goals. It also requires us to consider how to use the information systematically gathered on student performance to improve the teaching/learning process.

Institutional effectiveness assessment focuses on the extent to which an institution is making progress towards its mission and vision. When engaged in this process, members of the higher education community use the information collected to inform action taken for improvement.

The aim of student learning assessment and institutional effectiveness assessment is the ongoing enhancement of quality. AALHE supports these efforts in quality improvement by promoting assessment not just “of learning” but more importantly “for learning.”

Writing Team Members

Sesime Adanu
Jason Brunner
Jodi Fisler
Robert Flaherty

Cynthia Howell
Jill Kern
Karen Menard
Jeremy Penn

Jane Marie Souza
Constance Tucker
Erin Thomas
Felix Wao
Bob Wilkinson

2019-2020 Board of Directors



Andre Foisy
AALHE President-Elect
Excelsior College



Jane Marie Souza
AALHE President
University of Rochester



Jeremy Penn
AALHE Past President
University of Iowa



Jamie Wigand
AALHE Executive
Director



Moreen Carvan
Marion University



Teresa (Terri) Flateby
Georgia Southern
University



Kathleen Gorski
Waubensee Community
College



Steven Hawks
University of Minnesota



Joan Hawthorne
University of
North Dakota



Oscar Hernández
Texas Southmost
College



Shannon Milligan
University of California
San Diego



Tara Rose
Louisiana State
University



Monica Stitt-Bergh
University of Hawai'i
at Mānoa



Catherine Wehlburg
Marymount University



Josie Welsh
Missouri Southern
State University



Lorna Keach
AALHE Administrative
Assistant

Committee Highlights 2019-2020



AALHE HQ
 Company-wide announcements and stuff everyone needs to know.

AP
AK
+140

+ New
Teams
⋮

Board of Directors ***



Collaborations & Partnerships (Sha...) ***

The Collaborations and Partnerships committee shall explore an



Communications (Steven Hawks, Chair...) ***

coordinates and disseminates information through engagement in



Conference ***

The Conference Committee plans and carries out the annual Asso...



Conference: Core Subcommittee ***

Includes all chairs and co-chairs of conference committees and...



Conference: Proposals Subcommittee ***

Goals: attract quality proposals, draft proposal review rubric...



Executive ***

The Executive Committee consists of the President-Elect, the c...



Finance (Josie, Chair) ***



Infrastructure (Joan, Chair)***

The Infrastructure Committee ensures viability of the organiza...



Knowledge Development Task Force (T...) ***



Professional Development (Monica, C...) ***

The Professional Development Committee (formerly the Events Co...)



Publications (Kathleen, Chair) ***

The Publications Committee coordinates and develops publicatio...



Recruitment & Retention (Tara, Chair) ***

Recruitment & Retention analyzes membership data, recruits & r



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Jane Marie Souza

The year 2019-2020 was very active for the AALHE Board. The Executive Committee comprised of the president (Jane Marie Souza), past-president (Jeremy Penn), president-elect (Andre Foisy), and executive director (Jamie Wigand) led many initiatives to continue to move the organization forward. Major organizational accomplishments for AALHE this year included the following:

- New mission statement for AALHE approved by the Board – work began during the June 2019 board meeting
- Allocated funds for Board Meeting in Chicago November 18-20, 2019
- Segment of board meetings now devoted to Board Training by Executive Director
- New Vision, Values Statements, and Strategic Goals were approved (April 2020) after consideration of comments from membership
- Board approved President Souza and Board Member Tara Rose publication project in collaboration with twelve accreditors and signed contract with Stylus Publishing with AALHE as co-publisher
- Updates to By Laws were approved by the Board
- AALHE moved financial transactions to a new bank
- Jamie Wigand earned Certified Association Executive credential Dec. 2019
- Hired Robert Hendel, CPA
- Increased hours for assistant to executive director
- Moved all AALHE work into Basecamp and hosted training sessions
- Launched Slack channels
- Engaged with Grand Challenges project with Jeremy Penn and Jane Marie Souza on steering committee and Shannon leading one of the challenge groups
- Signed onto NILOA project *Defining a Profession: Developing Assessment Professional Competencies*
- Adopted Member Clicks
- Adopted a foundational statement for assessment
- Hosted Special Town Hall on Assessment in the Time of COVID-19
- Hosted a training session for committee chairs

COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Chair: Shannon Milligan

In support of AALHE strategic goals, the Collaborations & Partnerships Committee tackled the job of drafting guidance documents.

- Drafted policy for collaborations and partnerships (pending board approval)
- Drafted sponsored presentation policy (pending board approval)

Members as of May 2020

Metta Alsobrook
Olgun Cicek
Jay Kahl

Shannon Milligan
Jen Sweet
Robert Wilkinson

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Steven Hawks

The year marked a significant change in the quality and quantity of communications to members.

- Established monthly newsletters
- Served as the news source for major organizational developments and conference updates
- Hosted twitter chats

Committee Members as of May 2020

Brianna Mills
Courtney Vengrin
Erin Milne
Heather Hussey
Heather Pleasants
Leigh Robinson
Mindy James

Molly Durava
Sarah Young
Susan Perry
Lorna Keach
Steven Hawks
Jamie Wigand

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Jamie Wigand

The Conference Committee members handled the monumental task of essentially planning two conferences: the New Orleans in-person conference, and the shift to the 2020 online conference.

- Selected Higher Logic for the online conference management platform
- Created the infrastructure to move to an online conference environment
- Created schedules for both the in-person and online versions of the event
- Planned marketing efforts for the conference

Committee Members as of May 2020

Amanda Bylczynski

Amanda Karls

Andre Foisy

Carolyn Comiskey

Carrie Allen

Chadia Abras

Christina Dryden

Christine Robinson

Claudia Stanny

Constance Tucker

Emily Turner

Frederick Burrack

George Smeaton

Gina Polychronopoulos

Glenn Phillips

Guy Hanna

Holt Zaugg

Jane Marie Souza

Jen Sweet

Jennifer Ann Morrow

Jeremie Bellenir

Jill Kern

Josiah Nyangau

Kara Moloney

Karen Singer-Freeman

Kelli Cole

Lorna Keach

Maggie Morgan

Marc Gillespie

Monica Stitt-Bergh

Meghan Deyoe

Moreen Carvan

Renee Aitken

Ruth Slotnick

Sharon Valente

Stacy Voeller

Steven Hawks

Tara Rose

Terry Senne

Tom Striplin

Yao Hill

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Josie Welsh

The Finance Committee members spent countless hours reworking the guidance documents for the organization to assist the Board fulfill its fiduciary responsibilities. Other worked included the following:

- Reviewed all committee budget requests
- Prepared the FY2021 AALHE budget, which was approved by the Board
- Studied and approved the moving of AALHE financial transactions to a new bank
- Approved hiring a CPA as requested by the executive committee
- Updated the organizational finance guidance documents (pending board approval)

Committee Members as of May 2020

Katherine Cermak

Andre Foisy

Oscar Hernandez

Jeremy Penn

Jane Marie Souza

Josie Welsh

Jamie Wigand

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Chair: Joan Hawthorne

The Infrastructure Committee worked to make organizational improvements at multiple levels. Their work included the following:

- Completed planning for an environmental scan
- Working on development of a policy book/website
- Working on a website usability study
- Updated elections procedures (approved by the Board)
- Developing additional recommendations for revisions to the elections process

Committee Members as of May 2020

Jessica Evans
Leslie Harris
Joan Hawthorne

Chris Hightower
Vanessa Preast
Mitch Robertson

KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

Chair: Teresa Flateby

The task force continued its research project and filed an application with an Institutional Review Board to proceed with the study using grounded theory methodology to identify institutions with an institution-wide integration of assessment and curricular instructional planning and improvement.

Members of the Task Force as of May 2020

Tracy Bartholomew
Fred Burrack
Brad Coverdale
Robert Farrell
Teresa Flateby

Patti Gregg
Arthur Hernandez
Susan Kahn
Yuerong Sweetland
Jessica Taylor

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Monica Stitt-Bergh

The Professional Development Committee changed its name from the Events Committee to the Professional Development Committee to more appropriately reflect the scope of its work, which this year included the following:

- Facilitated a summer book club
- Worked on creating a set of assessment professional competencies
- Investigated certification models
- Developed “MATCH” program to offer paired conversations
- Offered multiple webinars

Committee Members as of May 2020

LaToya Burrell
Michelle Byrne
Moreen Carvan
Christy Cole
Carley Dear
Rob Flaherty
Patti Gregg
Paula Haines
Sue Henderson
Jeanne Horst

Jessica Magaldi
Tim Melvin
Shannon Milligan
Monica Stitt-Bergh
Sharon Stoerger
Jen Sweet
Roberta Teahen
Courtney Vengrin
Suzanne Wakim
Karen White-Goyzueta

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Kathleen Gorski

The Publications Committee worked diligently to take the AALHE publications to the next level of professionalism.

- Drafted new guidelines for *Intersection: a journal at the intersection of assessment and learning* (approved by the board January 2020)
- Published editions of the journal, conference proceedings, and emerging dialogues
- Worked to have an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) assigned to *Intersection: a journal at the intersection of assessment and learning*
- Set up Scholastica publications software

Committee Members as of May 2020

Giovanna Badi

Jeff Barbee

Lisa Bonneau

Kristin Buscher

Chris Coleman

Sara Cushing

Rebecca Gibbons

Kathleen Gorski

Sarah Harris

Jihee Hwang

Carolyn Keller

George Klemic

Mark McCain

Karen Menard

Shannon Milligan

Fiorella Penaloza

Karla Perez-Velez

Kate Pinder

Jessica Taylor

Mary Tkatchov

Amy Topper

David Turbo

Catherine Wehlburg

Shauna Wilton

Alison Witherspoon

Sarah Wu

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION COMMITTEE

Chair: Tara Rose

AALHE is a member-driven organization and this committee worked on several initiatives to support the value of membership and recognize the core of volunteers.

- Revised the volunteer form, distributed and analyzed the return data
- Revised the member survey, distributed and analyzed the return data
- Created a volunteer experience survey, distributed and analyzed the data
- Sent recognition certificates to over 120 AALHE volunteers
- Introduced the Recruitment & Retention highlights for the monthly newsletter
- Updating the membership application and member directory fields
- Developing a volunteer and members rewards structure
- Reviewing member benefits
- Drafting metrics for the committee

Committee Members as of May 2020

Angela Bryan

Christina Dryden

Brianna Edwards

Sean Fitzpatrick

Terri Flateby

Tracy Hendrickson

Oscar Hernandez

Curtis Jefferson

Max Korten

Alana Malik

Maureen McCarthy

Tere Naylor

Tara Rose

Tiffany Runion

**Association for the Assessment
of Learning in Higher Education**



CONNECT WITH US

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