The Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee (LOAC) met four times throughout the 2010-2011 academic year. The main agenda items involved clarifying the role of assessment in evaluating undergraduate achievement in the School of Arts and Sciences. The committee looked at several indirect measures (i.e. surveys) of assessment that were prepared by the Office of Institutional Research and included senior and sophomore surveys as well as the intercollegiate Consortium on Financing Higher Education (COFHE) survey.

Besides the indirect assessment of student achievement, direct assessment, which involves reviewing student work and then determining if the students have made sufficient progress, is also being conducted. Direct assessment requires disciplines to formulate a set of learning objectives, gather evidence about how well graduating students are doing with respect to mastering these objectives and then after looking at the data determine if there are any problems that need to be addressed.

In addition to the assessing of student achievement in specific disciplines, indirect and direct methods will also be used to assess student achievement in the foundation and distribution requirements.

The School of Arts and Sciences is going to use the information learned from the direct and indirect assessment of student achievement to improve the learning experiences of students and to help answer any questions about student achievement raised by the 2013 New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) reaccreditation committee.

Harry Bernheim-Chair of the Committee, Biology
Joseph Auner-Music
Barbara Brizuela-Education
Drusilla Brown-Economics
Robert Cook-Psychology
James Ennis-Sociology
John Flyer-English
David Hammer-Education
Jack Ridge-Geology
Laura Rogers-Education
Susan Russinoff-Philosophy

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James Glaser- Dean of Academic Affairs for Arts and Sciences
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Andrew McClellan-Dean of Academic Affairs for Arts and Sciences
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Lynne Pepall-Dean of GSAS
Tracy Rusch-Learning Outcomes Assessment Coordinator
Evan Simpson-Tisch Library
Dawn Terkla-Institutional Research