

Learning Assessment Committee
Friday, Sept. 10, 2010
1:00-2:30pm, T-750

Members Present: Vina Cera, Cheli Fossum, Mildred Lewis, Evelyn Lord, Ann McMurdo, David Mitchell, Karolyn van Putten (chairperson), Kathy Williamson

Members Absent: Newin Orante, Linda Sanford, Eileen White

1. Meeting Schedule for Fall/10 semester:

Sept. 10, 24, 28 (Brown Bag Lunch – T450)

Oct. 8, 29 (chairperson will be away for the 8th, but will prepare the agenda and Cheli will chair the 10/8 meeting),

Nov. 12 tentatively, since it will interfere with a potential 4-day break,

Dec. 10

(We're considering doing fewer meetings and more activities, and will direct our efforts thus, making up for the dearth of meeting times in Nov./Dec.)

2. Discussion of Agenda Updates:

- Cheli reported on the June 3rd training session

- We are unhappy about the lack of significant assessment productivity over the past year – roughly only 10% of our courses/programs have made it through any kind of assessment.

- We decided to ask Dr. White to clarify the possibility of accessing the funding promised for getting help with inputting to TaskStream & CurricUNET. This raised a discussion on how we could help dept./program chairs & faculty to participate more fully, since workshops alone have not successfully mobilized them. Two approaches arose: 1) requested one-on-one help by a recruited team of TaskStream trainers – several names were suggested, which our chair will poll, and 2) a specific digital tutorial developed with the help of Alexis Alexander. We also decided that we should use whatever leftover funds we had for trainer stipends.

- When "service area outcomes" (a term implied by the ACCJC reporting template language) was addressed, it became clear from a lively discussion that we needed to clarify our definitions of institutional outcomes, student learning outcomes, service area program outcomes, course outcomes, & program outcomes.

- Cheli demonstrated a screen to pull up from TaskStream to check the progress of assessment. To date, the different academic years are not aggregated.

3. Goals & Activities to concentrate on for Fall/10:

- We decided that our Brown Bags should concentrate on interactive sessions as opposed to less engaging lecture styles, though we'd like to emphasize and demo from actual Laney data results, featuring how assessment has helped and forwarded our teaching successes. We ended last semester with an enthusiastic brown bag utilizing a DVD from a series by 'Magna.' Since the activity was engaging, we decided to use the 2nd half of the first DVD for our first Brown Bag on Sept. 28. Last semester we also went

Comment [KP1]: KvP will talk to Dr. Kenney about mapping outcomes (Anita mentioned her knowledge base in this area.)

over Magna's entire series and chose several that seemed relevant. The chair will ask the college President for funding to purchase more and to reimburse the former chair for her outlay last semester.

- We discussed what ePortfolios were and how they're used for institutional/program & course assessment. Our chair informed us that our district is in the process of setting up some pilot programs, using open source software called 'Mahara.' Some pilot projects were volunteered from the CTE, and our chair will keep us in the loop.

- Dean Sanford has offered to show us how easily institutional outcomes could be developed from our approved general education outcomes set, but she was unable to attend today. We will pursue this at our next meeting, since we feel that we should finish the semester with a set, so that we can include non-instructional units beyond student support services in our global assessment of institutional effectiveness.

- We decided that it was worth the time and effort to continue with some form of newsletter/bulletin updates, to keep the Laney population focused on our assessment charges. Our chair will modify the PowerPoint presentation used on college flex day for our first edition this semester.

- The LAC web site is accessible from the 'site index' on the Laney site. KvP will consult with AVC Orkin about making the site more visible.