

**Learning Assessment Committee Meeting,
Friday, Oct. 13, 2006
1-2:15 pm in T-750**

Present: Tracy Camp, Vina Cera, Cheli Fossum, Jackie Graves, Evelyn Lord, Ann McMurdo, Mae Frances Moore, Louis Quindlen, Linda Sanford

Items Discussed:

Linda attended a “Strengthening Student Success” Conference in San Diego last week, with representatives from across the State discussing outcomes and sharing best practices. The LAC meeting was devoted to discussion of her report.

She shared a list of attendees, and brochures from vendors of software for tracking, reporting and manipulating data. It’s apparently a large market now.

The current expectation (written into the standards) is for outcomes to be published, though exactly where, is not mandated. Examples could be in the catalogue, in course schedules, in CORs, on the web page.

The main idea is that:

- a) they be made available to students,
- b) they be published in some kind of document.

**We need to have a mechanism for this publishing on the web page.

Student Services: Need to get started on the process. COA & Merritt have already developed their services outlines. We should look at theirs and perhaps use them as a model.

Ann will inform Ed Wright.

The Hancock College rep (Jose Ortiz’ new presidency) gave Linda a packet they’d developed in these areas.

Also, Kerry Compton (from CoA) has agreed to work with us.

There were examples of how various schools approached the process:

- Some Eng. Depts. started with basic skills, and moved upwards
 - they all used common assessments
 - Laney starts with Eng 1A, and assesses with a common exit exam

- SFCC even has an assistant coordinator just for the Eng. Dept.
 - Los Medanos uses embedded assessment, going from course to program to institution-wide outcomes, in a complicated & time consuming series of committees.
 - Though faculty driven, a lot of resources were put into many of the efforts, with college-wide initiatives, active involvement of the college research staff, facilitators and coordinators.
- ** We need to consider advocating for
- a) some type of coordinating staff position
 - b) the need to report to some planning body like the Senate committees, etc.

Program Review: planned for the entire school this Spring semester. Linda is developing reporting forms/templates, a handbook, training. (outcomes & some assessment to be included). Though similar to the 2004 undertaking with Jose Ortiz, the difference will be that the outcomes, needs, assessments, strategic plans...will be integrated, reported to planning committees, and tied to student success. Based on prior work, we also have a foundation from which to gauge our progress to date.

Discussion:

- The DAS should be informed.
- Dist. is not requiring all colleges to utilize the same methodology, just to have the same core elements.
- We feel we need to take sufficient time to get everyone up to speed on the process. Dr. Chong agrees, but is also eager to forge ahead.
- Critical need for participation of the research staff
- How do we answer the “same ‘ol, same ‘ol” complaints?
- Incentives: Bond \$, Instr. Equip., VTEA awards aligned with review
- Need mechanism for funneling needs, etc. to various committees
- Linda has asked for some basic data (with analysis!) from the Dist.
- What resources are the college willing to supply?
- How to cope with fear of being judged by inadequate reporting based on inexperience, or the results being used against you
- Some incentives: recognition, \$, release time for key individuals
- What is the accountability of depts., administrators?