

Learning Assessment Committee Meeting
Friday, Feb. 9, 2007
1-2:30 pm in T-750

Present: Tracy Camp, Vina Cera, Peter Crabtree, Cheli Fossum, Jackie Graves, Evelyn Lord, Ann McMurdo, Mae Frances Moore, Karolyn Van Putten, Ed Wright

1. Workshops for Prof. Dev. Day on Feb. 28 were confirmed:

10-11am: Cheli Fossum & Peter Crabtree: "Accreditation, Assessment, Shift to Learner-Centered Instruction"

11am-noon: Cheli & Mae Frances Moore: "How to Write Course-Level SLOs"

1-2pm: Cheli & Mae Frances Moore: "How to Write Program-Level SLOs"

2-4pm: Cheli & Karolyn van Putten: "Assessing Your SLOs: Rubrics & Other Assessment Methods Everyone Can Use"

2. We would like to register for the Magna Online Seminar on March 14, 10-11:30am, "Developing Tools & Strategies to Assess Student Learning," given by Linda Suskie. We will check with Dr. Webb to see if we can also purchase the CD-ROM/s that contain the course material. We're considering using T-450, and will consult with A/V for projector, audio and setup.

3. Cheli passed out the results of a survey compiled by the Office of Instruction. The survey listed information on which depts. developed the requisite SLOs, whether they were placed in the Spring 07 syllabi, identified them, and whether further training was requested. 18 depts. have complied with 1 or more SLOs in their Spring syllabi, and many more are in the making. The Curriculum Cte. has decided that starting in Fall/07, all new courses must have SLOs (and preferably Assessment methods) in the special SLO addendum page currently being drafted. We have made significant progress since last semester in this area. Cheli will put out some sort of publicity about this for the campus.

4. In view of our need to develop an institutional set of outcomes, discussion was held surrounding the handout of excerpts from "A Road Map for Improvement of Student Learning and Support Services through Assessment" by Nichols and Nichols. It advocates having an expanded Mission composed of a broad statement of institutional philosophy (rarely changing) and a set of goals derived from the Mission, which designate assessable action levels (constantly reviewed). We were in general favor of adopting this approach and will continue this discussion in future sessions. We also agreed that we should spend some time in developing our own philosophy of assessment. We thought that there were a set of Laney goals around, that have since drifted out of sight, but none could put our finger on these. Mae Frances Moore will attempt to research this.

5. We did not have sufficient time to prepare a timeline for the Institutional outcomes, but generally agreed that we would have to devote at least an entire semester to the task, and that it would most likely take place in Fall 07.

6. Much discussion and frustration was voiced regarding the District's lack of concern with their own accountability, and how lack of shared governance, communication and transparency was hampering our campus' effectiveness. As a first step of advocacy, the LAC decided to write a resolution (backed by the Faculty Senate) to be distributed to the Board, Dist. Administration, and other key parties. We will continue to look for ways to mobilize for change.

7. We inquired into what happened to the student satisfaction surveys that used to be required of all graduating students. They have apparently not been compiled or analyzed, and have not even been required lately. As a committee, we will advocate that these graduating surveys be required again, that we be given them before they go to the Dist., and that we also institute random satisfaction surveys regularly across the campus. Ann said she'd ask Rene in A&R if he knows what's happened to them. This is necessary data for our review.

8. We briefly discussed having a repository of some kind for all the data, references, etc. we are compiling. The library may be a possibility – we need to follow up. Some more brief discussion on having some sort of intranet for publication of our efforts, and our dialogue. The new PIO may be able to authorize a site for us, and this will be pursued.