LAMC LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (LOAC)

November 19, 2013

2:30 – 4:30 p.m., CC #4

Meeting Minutes

Present: Pat Flood, Co-chair; Dr. Mathew Lee, Margie Long, Sheila MacDowell, Sarah Master, Leslie Milke, Tigran Mkrtchyan, Riye Park, Deborah Paulsen, Mark Pursley, Patricia Rodriguez, Jesus Sanchez, Jolie R. Scheib

Introduction: Dr. Lee introduced himself by talking about his background and experience and how he was brought in as a consultant to help us address some of the accreditation recommendations.

1. Review of minutes of November 12, 2013 meeting.

Sarah Master corrected the spelling of her name. There was discussion about the January 15 deadline for SLO assessments, with the report from the Chair due on January 22. Originally, we had talked about having these reports due earlier, but the committee decided to maintain the schedule that was used for the past two fall semesters.


Pat talked about the results of the feedback received the previous evening from the ACCJC on Mission College’s Status Report on SLO Implementation submitted last spring. LAMC received an average score of 4 out of 5 points on the ten areas of information requested; it is the highest average score in the District to date.

Pat reviewed several areas that were weakest in the report. There was continued discussion on how to help students become more aware of SLOs by integrating them into the class lesson plans. Various members talked about strategies that they use in the classroom such as giving an SLO quiz during the second week, using polling technology, and having the students deconstruct the SLOs by offering alternate definitions of the words and concepts in the SLOs. Sarah is working on a student survey which has one or two questions about SLOs. The committee decided to also do a separate survey to measure student SLO awareness. One member suggested adding a text box to the online assessment system with a question such as: “How do you educate your students about the SLOs?”

Pat will forward the Feedback on the College Status Report on SLO Implementation before the next meeting for more discussion about strategies on how we can improve.
3. Master Schedule of Assessments

Pat talked about the Master Schedule of assessments she and Nick created and distributed a sample page from it. The schedule lists all SLOs, their last assessment date, the next assessment date (three years) and the following assessment date. All SLOs not yet assessed are scheduled to be assessed in Spring 2014, if the courses are offered, or as soon as they are offered after that, with a follow-up assessment within another three years. Dr. Lee reminded us that the accreditation report stressed that we need to accelerate assessment. Faculty/departments are encouraged to assess more often than the three-year minimum and to reassess after changes are implemented. Faculty are encouraged to assess an SLO every semester. Pat distributed a table illustrating a sample assessment schedule for three SLOs over a three-year time period.

Pat mentioned a common misunderstanding about SLO assessments. At the District SLOAC and at other meetings she and Deborah had attended in the past, it was stressed that we had to have at least one SLO assessed per course by fall 2012. All SLOs/SAOs, PLOs, and ILOs are supposed to be assessed within a three-year period; however, as a result of our accreditation evaluation, we realized we need to adhere to a shorter cycle of implementation of improvements and reassess, while at the same time moving on to the assessment cycle for another SLO.

Someone asked how often SLOs should be revised. Dr. Lee responded that if the SLOs are good, and benchmarks are reasonable and being met, then it is not necessary to revise them; however, it is a good idea to go back and look at them for the purpose of reflection and then make updates as needed.

There was discussion about how we can always improve, even if we’ve met the benchmark. Leslie Milke talked about how working with the Library to improve writing was very beneficial to her students. It was also mentioned that if things seem like they are in a rut, an instructor can do different things to be creative with the SLO, such as trying a different assessment tool.

Riye Park mentioned the challenge inherent in assessing different groups of students every semester and that waiting to implement a change and reassess until the next semester may not work well for ESL. She also mentioned that it would be good to have more data on the students’ background to help understand why there are variances with each new group from semester to semester. Riye talked about some of the challenges in ESL with the Assessment Center. Jesse Sanchez highlighted a pre-test and post-test scenario that they do in Culinary Arts for assessment.

The issue of whether all students should be assessed or only the “successful student” was discussed. The committee agreed that all students who turned in an assignment should be assessed. The SLO system has a randomizer that selects 35% of all active students to be assessed, but the group agreed that the more students that are assessed, the more valid and
meaningful the assessment is. Some faculty did not realize that they could reset the number of students to be assessed to “all.” Students that have dropped out or are missing can be skipped on the online system without having a negative influence on the average score of the rubric. If a student is skipped, a textbox appears for writing a justification as to why the student was skipped.

4. Continuation of Review of Charter

In the interest of time, it was decided to discuss the LOAC charter at the next meeting.

5. Sample Assessments and Rubrics for Discussion

Pat will send ten sample assessments and rubrics for discussion at the next meeting.

Additional Discussion Items:

Before a few members had to leave for another campus meeting, Pat brought up the question about whether LOAC should be under the Academic Senate or College Council, since LOAC includes members from both Student Service and Administrative Service areas in addition to academic areas. Leslie Milke stated that according to the Academic Senate Bylaws, LOAC should be under the Senate.

Margie Long suggested having brown bag lunches around SLO topics and also suggested having a list of common SLO acronyms.

Mark Pursley suggested inviting a student to be part of the LOAC.

Dr. Lee suggested that we try to send out the minutes, agenda, and other materials ahead of time for more efficiency.

6. Next meeting, Tuesday November 26th at 3:00 – 4:30pm, CC4

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Deborah Paulsen
Recorder