LAMC LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (LOAC)

Minutes of Meeting February 19, 2014

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., CC#4

Present: Co-Chair Pat Flood, Michael Allen, Diana Bonilla, Stephen Brown, Dr. Mathew Lee, Sarah Master, Tigran Mkrtchyan, Monica Moreno, Riye Park, Deborah Paulsen, Mark Pursley, Patricia Rodriguez, Steve Ruys, Dennis Schroeder, Sandy Thomsen, Tara Ward, Debby Wong, Louis Zandalasini

1. Review and approval of minutes of February 4, 2014 meeting

2. Mission College Learning Report (MLR)

Dr. Lee explained the philosophy behind the proposed Mission Learning Report. It will provide an overall assessment of the institution and document our accelerated efforts toward assessing all areas. It will gather together in one location all of the information related to learning at LAMC. It will be a compendium of learning outcome results and student achievement data. It would eventually include evidence of the completion of the assessment cycle. It will be used to continue to increase our effectiveness and improvement of student learning and to better serve our students. The MLR will contain information for various committees to consider in their decision-making process to help improve student achievement. The report can help to generate robust dialogue.

For the spring semester, LOAC was asked to do an outline of the MLR and complete the plan by September. It is not intended as an extra task, but rather it will contain all in one place a summary of reports that we are already doing such as the summary of the department chairs’ semester SLO reports, assessment data, student achievement data, and the results of “roll-up” assessments with possible links to details. The report would be breaking new ground and could be used as a model for other colleges.

Monica Moreno talked about what Student Services has done to link SAOs with the ILOs and what they are doing to measure their SAOs. Dr. Lee stated that not all SAOs might be correlated with the ILOs, and if that is the case, it is better not to try to force the connection but rather to include a qualitative narrative that connects the SAOs to the ILOs. At least one SAO (in each department) needs to be directly related to an ILO.

We also need to make sure that there is a connection in student learning and strategic planning to the Mission Statement. We need to make sure that everything we do supports quality education. We have been making a lot of improvements and need to generate more discussion. The deep dialogue discussions started last Fall should continue into the Spring. Planning more campus and district surveys and creating the roll-up assessments from SLOs to PLOs is crucial. To help facilitate further discussion of assessment results, an additional assessment retreat has been scheduled for Friday, May 2, 2014.
Pat mentioned that the Accreditation Progress Report is almost complete and that she is finishing the response to Recommendation #2 concerning our SLO progress.

Steve Brown brought up that the focus of outcome assessment should be on obtaining meaningful data that will help improvement. He emphasized that in order for the assessment of the outcomes to be useful and to use this process to improve, assessments should address areas with which students typically have difficulty. He stated that we need to ask ourselves what we want our students to get out of the class and we need to consider quality assurance mechanisms. He also stated that an SLO never stands by itself; it stands with the assessment method; to be meaningful, the SLOs and assessments sometimes need to be revised to make the results more meaningful.

Pat mentioned that she is considering putting together a LOAC newsletter to highlight exciting changes in learning. It was suggested that there could also be a central repository that starts with the assessment philosophy. Pat mentioned that there is a lot of information on the SLO website; it was suggested that we could look into reorganizing it so that information does not get buried. For example, if someone is new to SLOs, there could be a section entitled “New? – Go Here.” There could also be a section on FAQ’s similar to the one posted on the LAMC student website.

3. Curriculum Addendum to the Course Outline of Record (COR) for updating SLOs

Pat stated that it is important that the SLOs stated in the official Course Outline of Record matches the current SLOs for each class. An addendum in the meeting materials packet to enable chairs to update the SLOs was discussed. The Curriculum Committee also discussed this at their last meeting on 2/18/14. The addendum would enable the SLOs to be updated more quickly through an abbreviated approval process. The PLO connection could also be added to the form. Pat mentioned that when we update an old SLO on the online system, we need to add in parentheses (old), then add the new one (new) above it. This will ensure that the assessments attached to the SLO are not deleted.

4. Schedule of meeting times for the spring semester.

A Doodle poll was distributed in an attempt to determine the best time for the LOAC to meet during the spring semester. Based on the poll, the most often selected response was the second and fourth Wednesdays from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. The next most popular choice was 3:00 to 4:30. The committee decided to meet the following Wednesday, February 26, 2014, from 1:30 – 3:00 to finish discussion of agenda items that it was not able to address due to the time limitations.

Adjourned: 4:35p.m.

Recorder: Deborah Paulsen

LOAC Meeting Minutes

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