LAMC LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (LOAC)
Minutes of Meeting
March 12, 2014

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Collaborative Studies Building 110

Present: Co-Chair Pat Flood, Donna Ayers, Milena Calderon (student representative), Patricia Chow, Sheila Mac Dowell, Sarah Master, Par Mohammadian, Deborah Paulsen, Mark Pursley, Patricia Rodriguez, Jolie R. Scheib, Dennis Schroeder, Sandy Thomsen

1. Review and approval of minutes of February 26, 2014 meeting

2. Summary of LAMC’s SLO and PLO Assessment Progress as of 2-27-14

The committee discussed the details of the Summary of SLO and PLO Assessment Progress handout. Pat Flood noted that there is a dip in the SLO assessment numbers in spring 2012. The committee discussed possible reasons for this such as:

- The college was working on accreditation and Pat was co-chairing the self-evaluation report
- There is a correlated rise in PLO assessments at the same time
- It may have been the part of the cycle when instructors were making improvements before reassessment

There are more assessments of programs that are not yet entered into the system.

Now that the SLOs are aligned with the PLOs, we should see an additional improvement in the number of PLO assessments.

Pat Flood mentioned that on Friday, May 2, there will be an assessment retreat to focus on assessing the remaining PLOs. A master schedule for PLO assessment needs to be developed similar to what was done for the SLOs. The SLO master schedule also needs to be checked against what was submitted during program review in the fall. Class cancellations was mentioned as one of the reasons for classes not being assessed.

In late April there will be an accreditation follow up visit and the team will want to talk to the Chairs about assessment progress in their areas.

3. ACCJC Annual Report – SLO Section due March 31, 2014

Pat shared a handout with some of the questions from the ACCJC 2014 Annual Update. Question #37 “Describe the various communication strategies at your college to share SLO assessment results for usage by internal and external audiences.”
Explain how communications take into account how the information is expected to influence the behavior or decisions of particular audiences. Discuss how communication of student learning outcomes assessment information and results impacts student behavior and achievement,” seems particularly challenging, regarding the part referring to how SLOs influence student behavior.

Members shared examples of how students' study habits or classroom participation can be influenced or improved through the use of a rubric and assessment. Par Mohammadian discussed how she shares her past assessment results with her current students to try to help them understand and improve upon past results.

Pat is going to send out some of the ACCJC Annual Report SLO and Assessment questions to the academic chairs and student services leaders to gather their views and examples of improvement of student success based on assessment and implementation of changes.

For question #38 “Explain how dialog and reporting of SLO assessment results takes place at the departmental and institutional levels. Note whether practices involve all programs at the college. Illustrate how dialog and reporting impact program review, institutional planning, resource allocation and institutional effectiveness.” Student Services will be asked to provide information to demonstrate that at least one SAO in each of their areas supports an ILO.

The committee talked about how different groups contribute to the dialog of outcomes, such as student government, community services, clubs, art shows, and multimedia events (Cross-Fade Video Festival). Mark Pursley said he will talk to the ASO at their next meeting about what they do to promote dialog about SLOs.

The Annual Report is due March 31.

4. Assessment of the Information Competency ILO

Sandy Thomsen talked about how the college could plan out the ILO Information Competency assessment. She attended a conference in Sacramento and learned about an assessment that Palomar College did for Information Competency. She shared a handout with two rubrics that could be adapted for our needs. About 40 sections volunteered to participate in Palomar's ILO assessment. Their results at Palomar revealed that students were weakest on Ethics and the college is now focusing on helping students to improve on citing the information in their papers and avoiding plagiarism.

The LAMC Learning Outcomes Assessment committee discussed the rubrics from Palomar College and felt that they were strong rubrics with a good progression of skills. All agreed that the rubric would be especially useful if faculty distributed it at the beginning of the semester and developed assignments that work with it, but also there might be many existing assignments that could be applied. Pat recommended that a pilot Information Competency ILO assessment take place this spring and then the task
force could plan a more extensive assessment for Fall 2014. She mentioned that LOAC also needs to review our past ILO assessments and discuss what was learned from them as well.

Sandy Thomsen agreed to get together a task force to review the rubric and plan the Information Competency ILO assessment. Participants could include Par Mohammadian, Mark Pursley, Donna Ayers, and Patricia Rodriguez. It was suggested that Art, English, Health, History, Chicano Studies and Administration of Justice disciplines also get involved. Par Mohammadian mentioned that Pasadena City College has a “writing across the curriculum” program which they use to help them assess their ILOs. It was stressed that it is important for all faculty involved in the planning of the Information Competency ILO assessment to have a chance to give input.

Donna Ayers talked about authentic assessment and how she works with Life Science classes on library orientation and finding resources. Afterward the department reviews how the students actually did on the APA and MLA citations in their papers to help make improvements in the workshop the next time.

Pat Flood mentioned that for the next LOAC meeting she will invite Marie Zaiens to come as the LRC has a lot of tutorials and information regarding the ILOs posted for students on the LRC web-site.

5. Discussion of next meeting time: It would be good to get participation from Health and Kinesiology, and Athletics; and Physical Science.

Next meeting – Date and Time: Wednesday, March 26, 1:30 to 3:00