Unit Assessment Review Meetings
Guiding Questions for Department Chairs

1. Please highlight any changes since you submitted your unit assessment (e.g. enrollment trends of the units as of Fall 08).

Enrollments in the Life Sciences have increased from 857 (Fa07) to 1044 (Fa08). Of the 34 sections offered in Fa08, 30 were closed by the first day of school. The WSCH/FTE at census was 558. We have now met our 8 year goal of offering two daytime and two evening sections of all pre-Allied Health courses. Anthropology has grown significantly between Fall 07 and Fall 08.

2. What do you see as the strengths of each of your units?

- The greatest strength of the department is our committed and professional faculty who strive to serve students while maintaining appropriate academic standards.
- The department operates in a fiscally responsible manner by offering many sections with combined lectures and separate lab times.
- With the exceptions of two Anthropology courses, all SLO's and course outlines of record are up to date.
- The department is forward-thinking about new programs, such as in the Allied Health area, for which we are seeking CTE funds to develop.
- The department initiated its first on-line course (Medical Terminology) that is expanding our outreach throughout the greater Los Angeles area.

What do you see as the challenges?

- Other than the A.S. degree in Health Sciences, our program does not offer any other degrees or certificates. The plan is to develop an A.S. degree in Biology this year.
- The department has only performed one course assessment with the SLO's at this time. We must complete at least two additional course assessments in the Fall 08 semester.
- Developing a Biology majors sequence during the daytime will require stiff competition from adjacent colleges who have offered such courses for many years.
- It is vital that we seek funds for tutoring in all of the sciences at Mission College.
- The reinvigoration of a Biomedical Club or some organization like it is important for students to have a student-driven extracurricular program with faculty facilitation.

3. How does your unit planning support the mission of the college?

- The Life Science Department supports the mission of the college by offering degrees and programs needed for students to pursue allied health careers, transfer to universities and to earn valuable general education in the sciences.
4. What are your visions for changes, revisions and growth?

- The Life Science Department is currently working with the administration on the development of an allied health sciences major such as Licensed Vocational Nurse.
- With the addition of a new full-time faculty member, the department will be updating the curriculum of the non-majors GE course, Biology 3.
- The department will continue to add sections to meet the growing demand of students for courses in the life sciences.

5. What resources are needed to support as well as to build the programs in your Department?

- **Facilities** - With the addition of the new lab in Spring 08, the laboratory space needs of the life sciences should be met for another 8 years. In the advent of additional new programs, new labs will be required.
- **FTEF** - To meet student demand, the life sciences will need at least an additional 1.2 FTEF in Fall 09 over the Fall 08 (including any courses taught in PACE in Fall 08).
- **Staff** - Should new laboratories become available in the proposed East Campus, the department will require at least one additional lab technician to support students and faculty.
- **Technology** - Most of the technology needs are being met at this time. It is possible that faculty computers will need to be replaced over time and that new laboratory equipment will be needed for new labs or to replace old equipment.
- **Other** - none

6. What is the status of SLO assessments in your department?

SLO's for all of the courses in the Life Sciences, with the exception of two Anthropology courses, have been submitted and accepted. One course, Biology 7, was assessed in Fall 08. The department will assess another two courses in Fall 08.

7. What is the status of the course outlines of record and course updates in your department?

With the exception of two Anthropology courses, all course outlines of record and their respective prerequisites have been updated as of September 2008. Since there is no full-time faculty in Anthropology, the Vice-Chair for Anthropology will update these courses when needed and when funds are available to pay adjuncts for updating outlines.