LAMC LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (LOAC)
Minutes of Meeting
March 26, 2014

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CAI Arroyo Room

Present: Co-Chair Pat Flood, Patricia Chow, Sarah Master, Par Mohammadian, Deborah Paulsen, Mark Pursley, Patricia Rodriguez, Jolie R. Scheib, Dennis Schroeder, Sandy Thomsen, Debbie Wong, Marie Zaiens

1. Review and approval of minutes of March 12, 2014 meeting

2. Assessment Retreat

Because of a possible conflict with the original planned assessment retreat day, the Committee discussed having it on Friday May 9, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. after the Honors Ceremony. Flex credit will apply. The focus of the retreat will be on assessing the remaining PLOs. All of the SLOs have now been linked to the PLOs, making it easier to review the SLO assessments to create “roll up” assessments.

The assessment retreat would also be a good time to organize into groups of disciplines that support the General Studies and Liberal Arts “orphan programs” to discuss roll up assessments for these degree programs as well. Departments could share successful program outcome assessments to help others get ideas and inspiration.

Academic departments, Student Service, and Administrative Service Units are working on finalizing their PLO assessment schedule, similar to the SLO Master Assessment Schedule.

Life Sciences commented that they had just rewritten all of their SLOs and, consequently, would not be able to do any roll-up assessments during the retreat. Pat suggested that their department could help others with their PLO assessments in focus groups and analyzing data. Pat also mentioned that Life Sciences has a PowerPoint and assessment calendar on their departmental website. The Math Department has also posted a number of very helpful SLO and assessment materials on their website.

Pat mentioned that it would be helpful for Michael Allen to send out a reminder for the Deep Dialogue Discussion Groups to get back together if they have not done so already.

Deborah Paulsen organized a follow-up meeting with her Deep Dialogue Discussion group. Four faculty members attended including Donna Ayers, Angela Echeverri, Susan Polk, and Deborah Paulsen. At the meeting, Donna Ayers described a collaborative assessment she had done on Information Competency with Par Mohammadian’s class; as a result, Angela and Donna did some follow-up library
training for Angela’s class. Also at the Deep Dialogue follow-up discussion, Deborah mentioned that as a result of one of her assessments in an introduction to painting class, it was suggested that students explore landscape by taking their own photographs to use as reference for their painting; therefore, she is collaborating with the Saturday Introduction to Painting instructor to implement strategies discussed and reassess the results.

3. Assessment of the Information Competency ILO

Sandy Thomsen talked about the Information Competency ILO planning meeting. The group liked the rubric from Palomar College. There will be another planning meeting to get more faculty involved and give feedback; it could possibly be scheduled during the “college free hour.” Information regarding the planning should be distributed to Department Chairs for comment; support for participation from the Chairs will be very important. Discipline faculty would evaluate their own examples; most papers have already been assigned, but the rubric could be used to evaluate them. It would be good for faculty to see the rubric ahead of time. After the assessment, feedback can be considered and the rubric revised for next year. It was suggested that there should be training and directions with screen shots on how to complete the ILO assessment.

The group discussed possible solutions to collect data on demographics or other profile information such as units completed at the college. If there are additional questions, perhaps a survey could be administered at a later date.

Sandy Thomsen mentioned that will check the SLO website to learn more about what data the other ILO assessments collected. Marie Zaiens is adding more informational links about ILOs to the Learning Center website. Pat stated that we need to also start coordinating follow-up assessments for all of the ILOs.

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

Pat talked about putting together the ACCJC annual report. She sent out some of the questions to department chairs two weeks ago for their input and all the chairs responded. The reports were outstanding, and the responses were a challenge to condense to fit into the 250-word limit for each question. Two sample reports were highlighted in the LOAC meeting materials. The Physical Sciences Department report (question 2.b.) included a review of retention and success in relation to services, such as tutoring in the Science Success Center. For question 3.b., an example was given of how laboratory instruction that was more traditional (hands-on) had been modified into a virtual form (more efficient) for instruction.

The Math Department report included a discussion regarding addressing different learning styles by encouraging more faculty to utilize an online software master course. Math has implemented a number of course revisions due to assessment results. Math 125 showed major improvements in student success from 48% to 78%. The level of detail in their report was very thorough and supported by charts. Debbie Wong said it took the department two years to fully integrate the online component. At
first using the program was optional, but through workshops, faculty evaluations and student interest, now all instructors are utilizing the new software.

The Life Science Departmental report was also excellent with links in the document to curriculum changes such as English prerequisites, updates to SLOs, and improvements in retention.

5. Mission Learning Report – Tentative Outline
Pat presented an outline of topics to consider for the Mission Learning Report. Pat, Sarah Master, and Patricia Chow will work with VP Michael Allen over the summer to complete the report by September.

6. Discussion of next meeting time: Someone asked if LOAC needs to continue to meet twice a month? Pat said we only have four meetings left in April and May, then we can reassess the meeting schedule for the next semester. LOAC and PROC (Program Review Oversight Committee) will meet together for the next LOAC meeting.

Next meeting – Date and Time:  Monday, April 21, 3:30 to 5:00

Recorder: Deborah Paulsen