LAMC LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (LOAC)

Minutes of Meeting
September 24, 2014

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  CSB 102B

Present: Faculty Co-Chair Pat Flood, Business and Law; Administrator Co-Chair Sarah Master; Louise Barbato, English; Patricia Chow, Research Analyst, Raymond Gosen, ASO President; Sheila MacDowell, Library; Par Mohammadian, Life Sciences; MiChong Park, Counseling; Riye Park ESL/Dev Com; Deborah Paulsen, Arts and Humanities; Mark Pursley, Social Sciences; Patricia Rodriguez, Child Development; Emil Sargsyan, Math; Jolie Scheib, Foreign Languages; Dennis Schroeder, Student Support Services

1. Introductions

2. Overview of Recent Activities

Planning has been underway for the 2nd Annual SLO Summit. The speaker is Bob Pacheco, Dean at Mira Costa College and Assessment Chair for the RP Group. There was discussion among the group about what makes for a meaningful summit. The emphasis at this summit will be on PLO assessment. Assessments of the PLOs for General Studies and Liberal Arts have been assigned to the respective Department Chairs for each area of specialization.

Deborah Paulsen and Pat Flood worked on a template for a SLO Newsletter this summer and the first issue will be ready soon.

Pat mentioned that it would be useful for the committee to start reviewing course and program assessments to give feedback to the departments and focus on quality control this year. LOAC can learn from the assessments and give suggestions on how to make them more meaningful. Pat gave an example of a “real world” assessment used in AJ—a crime scene was created and then the students evaluated it using information and techniques they had learned in class. This assessment proven to be much more meaningful than the previous assessment that had been used as it more closely parallels a situation in which the students might find themselves.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2014

Sarah Master noted from the previous minutes that although the Action Items from last Spring’s joint LOAC and PROC meetings did not have to be approved, they were voted on and approved at College Council.
4. Accreditation Evaluation Team’s Final Report in Response to Rec. #2

Pat Flood shared the Conclusions section of the Accreditation Evaluation Team’s Final Report based on last spring’s Follow-up Report, which still contained a number of inaccuracies. She asked for the committee’s members thoughts about some of the comments and she shared the draft she had written in response for this year’s Follow-up Report for comment.

The committee discussed the theory behind assessment. With each new group of faculty and students, teaching and learning methods need to evolve and keep up with the learning needs and changes in society, such as technology.

The group talked about ILO assessments and linking them to student identification for disaggregation of the data. Par Mohammadian talked about the possibility of linking assessments from the ILO to the PLO and SLO.

Pat Flood and Deborah Paulsen talked about the process of linking ILO/PLO to SLO assessments and the importance of filling in the dialogue box on the online system after reviewing previous work. Some PLOs are duplicated in various programs and we need a better way to link the assessments.

At the time of the accreditation visit last March, LAMC had 292 PLOs and the evaluator wondered why we had so many. For example, Child Development had 17 Degree and Certificate programs with 91 PLOs. They have revised the PLOs to make them more manageable and now have 1 to 3 PLOs per program. In the accreditor’s response to the Follow-up Report, broader and more in-depth implementation of data use and cross curriculum data was requested. Their initial report in May stated that LAMC did not meet proficiency level, but the final report in July stated that proficiency was met. LAMC was removed from “Warning.”

There is a new Curriculum SLO Addendum form; as SLOs are updated, department chairs need to fill out the SLO Addendum and the changes can then be fast tracked through the Curriculum Committee for approval. Mapping to PLOs and ILOs are now part of the form as well.

The full accreditation cycle is six years, but we are now ending a cycle with a final Follow-up Report and beginning a new cycle with the next evaluation report due in March of 2016. The district colleges will now all be on the same cycle. The ACCJC Standards have changed somewhat and are more concise. For the next report LAMC will need to disaggregate SLO results by various demographics, such as gender and ethnicity. Fortunately, the online SLO system will enable us to do this.
5. LOAC Goals for 2014-15

Pat Flood presented and the committee discussed a draft of the LOAC Goals for 2014-15:

1. Evaluate the assessment processes and make recommendations on how to improve those processes for all academic programs, the library, student support services, and administrative service areas.

2. Analyze the results of assessment (institutional learning outcomes, academic programs, student support services, and administrative service areas) and implement changes that improve learning and services.

3. Report to the appropriate constituencies the findings of our evaluations, surveys and analyses of assessment results.

4. Recommend to the appropriate constituencies how the assessment results could be used for institutional planning.

5. Initiate and promote campus-wide dialogue on student learning needs and issues revealed through the committee’s survey and analysis.

6. Write an annual Assessment Report to be incorporated into the Mission College Learning Report.

6. ACCJC Accreditation/SLO Conference at Citrus College 9/19/14

Pat Flood talked about the ACCJC conference that she and other members of the Accreditation Steering Committee attended last Friday. Speakers talked about meaningful assessments and how they should replicate something that a student would need to do in the “real world.”

Pat commented that the conference was very worthwhile with some excellent speakers and that the opportunities to network with faculty and administrators from other colleges was very valuable, stimulating, and reassuring that we are on the right track. Pat will put some of the information into the LOAC Newsletter. Dr. David Marshall from California State San Bernardino was one of the presenters and was an especially effective speaker.

7. LOAC Self-Evaluation

Last year LOAC met sixteen times. The Charter has been refined and all of our meeting materials are posted on the SLO web-page. Pat is preparing a more detailed evaluation, which she will bring to the next meeting.
8. Information Competency ILO Final Report – Sheila MacDowell

Sheila MacDowell talked about the pilot Information Competency assessment conducted last spring. Ten faculty participated. They used a common rubric to evaluate papers, entered the results on the online system, and analyzed the results. A survey, which was actually a quiz, was also administered. There were no significant differences in the assessment results and the number of units that they had taken at LAMC. The conclusions and recommendations from the written report were discussed. Sheila expressed concerns about variables within the assessment and that we have to be careful about conclusions. The group discussed when the next Information Competency ILO assessment would take place and decided on Spring 2015; this fall a task force will closely examine the pilot and decide on how to proceed.

The group agreed that all of our ILO assessments should be reviewed and re-assessments planned. The Information Competency ILO pilot assessment is a strong model to consider and follow. Since all SLOs are linked to ILOs and all SLOs have been assessed at least once, existing assessments could be used to do a roll-up a report for the ILOs.

7. Mission College Learning Report

Pat Flood distributed an outline for the Mission College Learning Report to be completed this semester and briefly discussed it.

8. Next LOAC Meeting – October 8, 2014

Adjourn 3:10pm

Recorder: Deborah Paulsen