SPRING 2012 SLO/PLO ASSESSMENT REPORT

Date: December 19, 2012

Name of Person Reporting: Mike Reynolds, Chair of Life Sciences

Name of Department and/or Discipline: Life Sciences

1. What courses/certificates/programs have you assessed this past semester?

   Assessments for Anatomy 1 and Biology 3 were completed in Fall 2012. These reports will be submitted by the end of January.

2. Summarize the analysis of your assessment results for courses in your area.

   As of Fall 2012, all courses that are offered in the regular program have been assessed, with the exception of Biology 40 (not offered since assessments began) and Environmental Science 2 (offered only occasionally in the PACE program). In each case, the results of the assessments were shared with faculty in those disciplines in which the results have been discussed.

3. How have the results of your assessments been shared and discussed among the members of your program? (Provide dates and any minutes of meetings.)

   For each course, the instructors teaching the course were made aware of the results of the assessments. All of the Anthropology courses are taught by adjunct faculty, and in so far as it is possible, improvement plans have been discussed and disseminated. Anatomy and Physiology are taught by both full-time and part-time faculty and the results of these assessments were shared and discussed among the group. For Biology 6 and 7, only two full-time instructors have taught this course and discussion ensued regarding the overlap in concepts that are taught in each course. Biology 33 is taught by a single adjunct faculty member. The results of this assessment were discussed with the department chair. Microbiology 20 is taught by two full-time instructors and one adjunct instructor. Since all participated in the assessment, each are aware of the results of the assessment and the improvement plans that resulted.

4. How have the results of your assessments been shared and discussed with members of your advisory committee (if vocational program)?

   Assessment reports are communicated via e-mail to instructors who teach a specific discipline. In the Fall of 2012, discussion of assessment completed to date were reviewed with some minor changes suggested.
5. Based on the discussion and analysis of your assessment results, what changes have you made or do you plan to make? (Please provide dates, description of changes, and person responsible.).

Per question #3 above, all of the analyses were disseminated to the instructors teaching the course. The primary improvements for each course were:

**Anatomy** – New histology slides were purchased to standardize the views of tissues.

**Anthropology** – In all of the anthropology courses, increased emphasis has been placed on basic writing skills.

**Biology 3** – New emphasis has been placed on the use of the scientific method, graphing and the metric system.

**Biology 6 and 7** – The chapter on the immune system was moved from Biology 7 to Biology 6 to account for the molecular and cellular nature of the immune system.

**Biology 33** – More emphasis has been placed on the actual reading of allied-health related articles to ensure that the vocabulary is understood in the context of real-world publications.

**Microbiology** – A new laboratory manual was adopted that places increased emphasis on the microbiological nature of disease.

**Physiology** – More computer-based lab simulations of complex physiological processes were adopted.

6. What resource requests are planned as a result of the assessments?

With the move into the new Center for Math and Science, all needed equipment, especially new microscopes, will be available to faculty and students.

7. Have the assessment results been posted on the online system?

With the exception of Anthropology 102, all assessment results have been posted. The chair will work with the SLO Coordinator to post the results of this assessment which was completed in February of 2012.