FALL 2012 SLO/PLO ASSESSMENT REPORT

Date: December 21, 2012

Name of Person Reporting: Said Pazirandeh

Name of Department and/or Discipline: Physical Sciences

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

   Chemistry 51, and 101
   Geography 1, 7 and 15

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

   Chemistry 51
   One SLO was assessed on maintaining laboratory notebook according to standard scientific guidelines. Two sections of the course were assessed on this SLO. Students were initially presented with an assessment rubric developed by both instructors teaching the two sections assessed (S. Pazirandeh and J. Cassara). Laboratory notebooks were collected twice during the semester to evaluate the SLO according to the rubric. The initial evaluation was used as a learning tool to guide students in areas that were deemed deficient and needed additional guidance. The second evaluation was used as assessment for the SLO and evaluated according to the assessment rubric.
   Initial evaluation of results indicate that while most students are developing or proficient in the collection of data and observations, many are deficient in analyzing the results and developing conclusions based on experimental data.

   Chemistry 101
   One SLO was assessed on solving quantitative chemistry problems through integration of multiple ideas and demonstrating reasoning clearly and completely, by imbedding questions on the final exam. One section of this course was assessed on this SLO. Exam questions were assessed using a rubric developed by instructor of record (G. Godjoian) with consultation with other faculty in the discipline (M. Fenton and S. Pazirandeh).
   Evaluation of results and recommendations based on this assessment are planned to be completed by end of Jan 2013.
One SLO in each of the 3 courses above were evaluated by the new discipline faculty (D. Waktola). Evaluation and analysis of assessment results for these SLO’s will be finalized in Jan 2013.

As of this date, all Physical Science courses have been assessed except the following:

Chemistry 52, Oceanography 1, Geology 1

All these courses have been inactive during the past 2 years and have not been offered during this time.

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.)

All full-time faculty members participated in the planning of SLO assessment as the beginning of the semester during SLO retreat planned by the college on August 23, 2012. During the semester, chemistry discipline faculty met informally with adjuncts teaching labs for courses being assessed during the semester to develop plans for these assessments. Several faculty members from the department (M. Fenton, G. Godjoian, D. Waktola and S. Pazirnadeh) met on 12/19/12 to review preliminary assessment results done during the semester and plan for detailed analysis during Jan 2013.

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

Not applicable
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.).

Chemistry 51: Based on initial assessment results, the following recommendations have been suggested:

a) Use of new laboratory notebooks that include tear-off carbon copy duplicates that can be turned in to the instructor for grading. This will enable instructors to monitor the contents of the notebooks as students turn in experiments for grading, rather than collecting notebooks at various intervals in the semester.

b) Providing more clear guidelines for developing conclusions for each laboratory experiment. These guidelines will be provided as general questions that can be answered in specific form for each experiment. In this manner, students can be guided into reaching more appropriate and informed conclusions.

These recommendations will be discussed with all discipline faculty during Jan 2013 and final recommended actions will be implemented in Spring 2013 in all sections of the course.

The recommendations for chemistry 101 and geography courses that completed assessment during Fall 2012 will be provided once the assessments have been evaluated by end of Jan 2013.

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

The bookstore has been contacted to provide new laboratory notebooks described above available from publishers. Other resource requests deemed necessary after final evaluations of the SLOs will be done during Jan 2013.

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

All SLOs assessed during Fall 2013 will be posted online during Jan 2013.

Written responses to these questions are due by Friday, December 21, 2012. These answers will be important evidence for accreditation.