



To: Jerry, Jakubowski, Provost and VPAA
Steve Kreta, Academic Dean

From: Institution-wide Assessment Council

Re: IWAC Summer Session and Revisions to Institution-Wide Student Learning Outcomes

Date: August 5th, 2010

Jerry and Steve,

In a collaborative effort, the Director of Faculty Affairs, the Director of CETL, and the WASC Coordinator, set aside Faculty Development funds for a group of interested faculty to work over the summer on Educational Effectiveness and Institutional Assessment in preparation for the WASC group and beyond. This group worked very hard over the span of July 26-30, and much was accomplished. What follows is an executive summary of our work and a list of questions and issues for the future.

Summary of Work

1. We developed a comprehensive Assessment Plan for the Institution-Wide Student Learning Outcomes. Such a plan included the
 - a. Creation of a five-year calendar for the assessment of all IW-SLOs
 - b. Creation of a flow-chart of the annual process by which an IW-SLO will be assessed
 - c. Creation of rubrics to be used for the Academic Year 2010-2011
 - d. Creation of a data base with multiple input variables capable of managing academic assessment data for the duration of the five-year cycle.
 - e. Creation of a “feedback loop” by which recommendations based on evaluation of data will be acted upon.
2. We analyzed the data collected from IW-SLOs assessed in the previous academic year (2009-2010) which included “Written Communication” and “Knowledge of the Physical World”

3. We produced a university-wide matrix of student learning objectives which aligns every academic program student learning objective to the IW-SLOs
4. We produced a mock up of the ASSESSMENT page to be implemented with the new campus web design, with repositories built in for Assessment Reports
5. We produced a presentation of our work to be delivered to the entire faculty prior to the fall term.

Questions and Concerns

1. Many, many hours were spend discussing and deliberating over the Institution-Wide Student Learning Outcomes. While these outcomes as originally presented were ambitious and comprehensive, they were nearly impossible to actually assess as they were written. This committee took upon itself to reformat the IW-SLOs such that they could be managed better. Some of this reformatting involved condensing two SLOs into one; some involved excising of adjectives and adverbs to make them more “universal;” and some involved re-numbering them for easier assessment alignment purposes. It is the opinion of this committee (which included a member of the curriculum committee, a member of the Senate Executive Committee, and a member of the Chairs council) that such a reconfiguration does not constitute the kind of substantial changes that would require a resubmission to the Curriculum Committee. I’ve attached our IW-SLOs, and the previous iteration is available on the web at www.csum.edu/wasc
2. One of our charges was to build a model for assessment sustainability for the campus. This was accomplished by creating The Institution-Wide Assessment Council (IWAC). The duties and responsibilities for this group were discussed at length. Because some of the institutional outcomes may fall outside the purview of academic programs, this is not a faculty-only committee, nor is it a Senate committee. Jerry was consulted about the formation of this Council and agreed in principle that it is worthy of institutional support. As a group, we felt that the amount spent this summer may be used as a baseline for the future. Much work of this Council will be done in the summer – analyzing the previous year’s data, writing the reports, drafting rubrics and planning for the upcoming year.

The “by-laws” of the Institution-wide Assessment Council and the assessment plan itself are attached in the document IWAC Portfolio. If you could review these documents, and get back to me – especially regarding the IW-SLO reformatting and assurances that we can financially sustain the Council – I would be delighted to proceed by writing using this information in our WASC Report and publicizing this to the campus community.

Graham Benton,

Accreditation Liaison Officer