



To: Academic Senate Executive Committee
Chair, Curriculum Committee
Department Chairs
Provost and VPAA
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
Academic Dean
Director, ABS School
Director, Faculty Affairs
Director, CETL

From: Institution-wide Assessment Council

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

Date: July 10th, 2012

Colleagues,

The IWAC council has recently concluded its annual week-long summer session: it was a very productive assembly with a great deal of energy devoted to strategic planning and strengthening the assessment process itself. Per the Duties and Responsibilities of this committee (http://www.csum.edu/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=475e5151-2d31-403c-9728-52dd710989dc&groupId=63267), IWAC shall periodically “propose revisions to the Institution-wide Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Plan as needed.” You may recall that we revised the Assessment Plan last year to accommodate suggestions made by the WASC visiting team. This year, we modified and clarified the Learning Outcomes themselves. The rationale for these changes are as follows:

- Eleven separate outcomes was burdensome and excessive (most institutions have four to eight). We combined two of them to have a set of ten in total.
- As the outcomes were originally drafted by a group different from that which is now implementing the assessment plan, it was discovered that some outcomes were nearly impossible to assess in any meaningful way.
- We simplified, clarified, and eliminated redundancy wherever possible.
- We eliminated confusing language and modifiers in the descriptors of the outcomes.
- We altered language to conform to standardized usage of learning outcomes across institutions of higher learning.

We believe these revisions do not compromise the integrity of the outcomes as previously written and approved. We believe these rephrased outcomes will greatly enhance the assessment

process, and as members of the committee responsible for the assessment itself we believe these changes will improve our practices and result in stronger data. We believe these changes will not impact the assessment calendar itself. Attached to this email is a version of the “old” SLOs, and a copy of the revised SLOs (dated July 5th, 2012)

We would like to present these Institution-Wide Student Learning Outcomes at the All-Faculty meeting on August 22nd during the time allotted to IWAC. Should you have any questions or concerns, we would be happy to discuss our motivations and justifications for these changes at any time.

Graham Benton; Chair, IWAC
Julie Chisholm
Mike Holden
Nipoli Kamdar
Tim Lynch
Bunny Paine-Clemes
JoAnne Strickland
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