



**Academic SLO Meeting
Tuesday, May 6, 2008
3-4:30 pm, Room 426 F**

Members Present: Shannon Gracey, Joel Levine, Richard Fielding,
George Bonilla

Members Absent: Margie Stinson, Val Goodwin, Noral Corral

Minutes

I. SLOs and faculty evaluation: We discussed a number of reasons not to use SLO assessment information as a part of evaluation of our faculty:

1. We already have a "self-evaluation" component in our union negotiated faculty review process that has been successfully used for years.
2. The characteristics of our students are extremely diverse from class to class in educational experience, stability of living conditions, work status, academic ability, etc. The use of SLO assessment to reflect a single faculty's effectiveness as an instructor is not valid. There are too many human variables of our students that are beyond the control of individual faculty.
3. Accountability for learning has been around in K-12 systems and is a huge part of No Child Left Behind. For the last 10 years we've watched the failure of the K-12 use of costly high stakes tests and exit exams to improve student learning in mandated education with tightly controlled and dictated curriculum and textbooks. This is particularly true for at risk populations in K-12. Many of the K-12 students who leave that system come to community colleges with weak basic skills. The only reliable outcome of K-12 assessment of learning to date is the trend there to teach to a test.
4. Postsecondary education is optional. We can't mandate student participation in activities that may improve outcomes. We can only provide the opportunity to learn using quality curriculum and instruction.

5. Staff development is critical for our faculty to have the latest curriculum and instruction techniques that have resulted in good student learning.

6. SLOs take Academic Program Review, curriculum, and instruction to a level where we try to quantify the outcomes faculty have identified for students in our courses and programs. There is no guarantee that the outcomes or methods of assessment are statistically valid or reliable. The SLO assessments are criterion referenced and should only be used for evaluation of the curriculum and of instructional techniques.

II. SLOs on Web: Finalized topics

Add SLOs to the home page(on left side) to allow public access to all SLOs, including: 1) Institutional, 2)Student Services, and 3)Academic. Clicking, on one of these three would take you to the SLO site. For the Academic SLO site the following links would appear:

1. SLO Philosophy/Core Competencies
2. SLOs by Course
3. SLOs by Program
4. SLO Plan
5. SLO SWC History and Guidelines
6. Orientation
 - a. Making SLOs Work
 - b. Play
 - c. Big Ideas
7. SLO Results: Go to Academic Program Review

To Do: Joel will edit out SLO's and replace with SLOs in orientation material. Patti will condense Philosophy and Core Competencies into one document. She will finalize history. She will work with Susan Soy to revise directions to include visuals to be posted on Curricunet.

- II. **Next Steps for Consultation on Program SLOs:** This fall 2008 Patti will bring our overarching Program SLOs to Curriculum Committee, Dept. Chairs, and Senate. Joel will bring them to Dean's Council. Mary Wylie said she was doing vocational for her programs.

The following are the Program SLOs for Basic Skills, General Education/Associate Degree/Certificate, and Transfer:

Core Competencies included in the SLOs:

Communication

Thinking and Reasoning

Information Competency

Global Awareness

PROGRAM SLOs:

Upon completing the program (Basic Skills or Associates Degree or Transfer or Certificate program) the desired Student Learning Outcome is to:

1. Research and critically analyze data, information, and ideas and communicate this analysis in the form of a written document or oral presentation.
2. Complete requisite courses with a major emphasis and have sufficient communication, thinking, reasoning, information competency, and global awareness to qualify for: Basic Skills completion or Associates Degree or Transfer or Certificate.

- III. Next Liaison Communication:** Patti will check for winners of SLO writing contest. Child Development won the SLO contest with 44 SLOs completed. Child Development has 4 fulltime and 35 part-time faculty. Prizes were given to every faculty from Charles Shaw!
- IV. 08-09 SLO Plan:** Patti and Veronica will meet Monday, May 19 to finalize a draft SLO plan for approval.

Next meeting: Email Patti your fall 2008 availability or unavailability now so we can plan our meeting day/time!