Proposed Changes to the SLO Assessment Process in Instruction

The Outcomes Assessment Review Committee is bringing a few proposed changes in our SLO Assessment process to the Faculty Senate. We would like to pilot them this semester as part of the new CurricUNET SLO module and to bring the results to the Senate to discuss before possibly adopting them universally.

Why are we considering changes?

- Because the Core 4 are the SLOs for three areas on campus: all our AS and AA degrees in transfer, the GE program and our institutional learning outcomes.

- The accreditation visiting team was not familiar with our current approach and had concerns that we possibly did not assess our AS and AA degrees in transfer. Plus, they did not get consistent answers about this from campus faculty, resulting in our recommendation to more clearly define a “program.”

- However, the ACCJC has used Cabrillo’s approach as an example in two conference presentations and has also said that it is permissible to use the same set of data to assess course, degree and institutional SLOs --- BUT the discussions about what the data reveal for each level should be kept separate. Our current forms do not make that required separation.

- Because we measure the Core 4 in individual departments and have not yet found an effective way to share the results across the college.

What would change?

- The form that records the Core 4 Assessment results.

- Where the forms can be found and who fills them out.

How?

- The forms filled out by individual faculty AND the form filled out after the departmental discussion of individual results would include the following new questions (after the regular summary of the assessment results):

  **Departmental Degree Results:** What do these results tell you about how well students are mastering the skills needed for the departmental degree?

  **GE program results:** What do these results tell you about how well students are mastering the skills needed for the GE program?
College Core Competency Results: What do these results tell you about how well students are mastering the skills needed for the College Core Competency?

Rate the results:
4 Almost all have mastered the competency
3 Most have mastered the competency
2 Some have mastered the competency
1 Few have mastered the competency

- The forms would be available on the CurricUNET SLO module, and all faculty reporting results would fill them out on-line.

Potential Impacts:
- It would be easy for an accrediting visiting team to see that all required levels of assessment have been completed.
- All faculty would be more clear on the process for assessing transfer degrees.
- The rating of the results would provide some numerical evidence. Departmental dialogue about what to do about it will still be required.
- The rating of the results would give ARC an easy way to see what is happening with Core 4 assessment across campus. It could facilitate a campus dialogue.
- Faculty would have four more questions to answer on the form.
- All faculty -- full-time and adjunct -- would learn how to use the CurricUNET SLO module and, instead of filling out a paper form (as is current practice) it would be done on-line. Once the process is learned, this could save time.
- The CurricUNET SLO module can prepare a summary report of all department members’ SLO results that can be sent to the department before the meeting to dialogue about the results, saving time. The report would keep the individual faculty results anonymous.

Possible Future Directions
- If this works well, the college could expand this approach so that Instruction only assesses course SLOs and uses those results to measure courses, certificates, degrees and institutional SLOs, resulting in less actual assessment but more dialogue for departments.