

## **Minutes for Project LEARN Steering Committee Meeting January 15, 2009**

**Present:** Kris Abrahamson, Carole Bennett, Wanda Burzycki, Victor Cummings, Craig Foster, Micca Gray, Dave Harris, Kimberlee Messina, Ricardo Navarette

The meeting commenced at 1:05 p.m.

### **Reports**

**SLO Coordinators.** Wanda is in the process of recruiting four faculty members for the League of Innovations Conference in Reno and is hoping to find representatives from GE, CTE, math, and Basic Skills. Craig has been working with departments such as Business Administration and Communications on LAPs for courses and programs. Carole has completed the revision of over 100 courses with SLOs in the course outline and will be identifying other departments that need help updating courses.

**C-Learn.** Victor said that 14 LAPs have come through with proposals since September, but more are on the upcoming agenda.

**Academic Senate.** Both Senate representatives, Eric Thompson and Barbara Croteau, were not present. However, there was discussion about the Senate's proposed resolution that will support the existing contractual requirement that regular faculty *reflect* upon SLOs and assessment as part of the evaluation process. There have been concerns voiced at all levels of the Senate that ACCJC's standard about faculty involvement in outcomes and assessment might be interpreted as a way to evaluate instructors based on students' achievement of SLOs. However, this is not SRJC's or Project LEARN's intention. Eric will formally present Project LEARN's perspective at the next Academic Senate meeting.

**Pro-Learn.** This group is meeting to discuss ways to better communicate with the college about developing program outcomes and following up with Learning Assessment Projects. So far, DRD, Child Development, and Psychology are working on pilot program assessment projects.

**I-Learn.** I-Learn is in somewhat of a lull right now because a number of things have been accomplished and decisions have not yet been made about where the next efforts should be focused. I-Learn may present information about technology outcomes, seeking to "close the loop" KC also mentioned that at some point the college may want to revisit the existing Institutional SLOs at some point to determine if all of them are still appropriate. Kris suggested that I-Learn consider looking next at critical thinking, approaching assessment via the "Cabrillo model," which is based on assessment embedded in a course or program, using the work students are already doing.

**Student Services.** EOPS, DRD, and CalWORKS have already "closed the loop" in terms of using assessment data within the program. Some areas have moved ahead while others can't due to the transition to the new SIS. However, overall, outcomes and assessment

have been demystified. Also, a number of counseling courses have been incorporating SLOs into their course outlines.

### **Discussion Items**

**Course SLOs.** There was discussion concerning the degree to which course outlines of record need to be revised when SLOs are added. It was suggested that newer courses (reviewed within the past 3 years) just modify the course by adding SLOs; older courses that are within a couple years of their next review date should undergo full review by their Cluster Tech Review Committee. Then they can be recommended for full review status on the Consent Agenda of the Curriculum Review Committee.

**PRPP.** Kris announced that she has been working with John Mercer of Computing Services, and the new version of the PRPP will include a section for tracking SLOs and assessment of courses and programs. This was added in-house without the extra expense originally projected by the commercial enterprise behind the Convergence program.

**E-Lumen.** This program, previewed at the last meeting, would cost \$25,000 for set-up and then \$15,000 per year, which would include all support and upgrades. Discussion raised these points and questions:

- The program would help SRJC better connect with other colleges in terms of progress in outcomes assessment.
- Would the Chancellor's Office help with the funding? Actually, there would be some funds available through the Community College League.
- From a research perspective, the program would provide a very good, accessible database for the Office of Institutional Research, supplementing the over-taxed Computing Services.
- Is the program so efficient, cut-and-dried, and course-oriented that it would preclude dialogue among faculty?
- Would the program set up unrealistic expectations of how much assessment can be accomplished by faculty?
- Would it allow assessment to become a more routine part of teaching?
- Wouldn't the data be useful for applying for grants?
- Is the college community ready for this?

It was decided to research the program further and then ask Mr. Shupe to return later this semester to provide a more extended review and to answer further questions. Also, those on Project LEARN committees who are going to the League of Innovations Conference will plan to learn more about E-Lumen both at its booth and by talking with faculty from other colleges who are using it. Gradual implementation might be a way to get started and at the same time get the benefits of the database. The recommendations of the accreditation team might support this kind of purchase—or not, depending on SRJC's perceived progress.

**Communications Strategies.** Various members of the Steering Committee will communicate to the college the need to complete LAP proposals and projects. Kris will send out informative emails. Wanda, Craig, and Kris will present a list of progress on LAPs by individual departments at the next DCC/IM meeting. Kris will ask deans to

request that departments submit LAPs before the Feb. 20 deadline. Wanda, Craig, and Carole will connect with individual departments and faculty members on LAPs, including through PDA workshops.

**Methods of Assessment in the COR.** The 2012 ACCJC expectations of documenting outcomes assessment for courses could be addressed in part by including a field for methods of assessment in the Course Outline of Record. However, this addition to the COR would need to be initiated by the Academic Senate, which oversees curriculum. Wanda, Barbara, Kris, and Eric will get together to discuss how to approach this.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55.