

Project LEARN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes, August 22, 2013

In attendance: Kris Abrahamson, Wanda Burzycki, Li Collier, Micca Gray, KC Greaney, Anne O'Donnell, John Weser. Guest: Robin Fautley, Academic Senate President.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Kris Abrahamson, Project LEARN co-chair. Approval of the minutes from the May 16 meeting were deferred until the next meeting, when everyone will have had a chance to read them.

Report from the Academic Senate. Eric Thompson is on sabbatical this fall, so Anne will be the Senate Liaison. Official Project LEARN reports will be given on October 16 and December 4. However, after considerable discussion, the group decided that it was important to bring a resolution to the Senate regarding goals for assessment of courses, majors, and certificates. According to PRPP counts, about 34% of courses have been assessed, but only a few majors or certificates have documented assessment. To meet accreditation standards, 100% of courses, majors, and certificates need to be assessed. Senate backing is essential to support an accelerated effort to reach these goals. Robin said that she can convey the numbers and the urgency in her President's report, but a resolution would formalize the intent. Kris, Anne, and Wanda will draft a resolution and present it at the Sept. 4 Senate meeting.

Report from SLO Coordinators. Anne and Wanda will begin contacting department chairs individually to help them determine their assessment gaps, whether it's a need to input completed assessments into SharePoint, to create major or certificate assessments through the "bottom-up" method, or to conduct assessments for courses that have not yet been assessed. If the Senate votes for the resolution, there will be more support to complete assessments.

General Education SLOs. Accreditation now expects Student Learning Outcomes for General Education to be stated explicitly. Previously, SRJC had folded in the GE outcomes with the Institutional Learning Outcomes that the college has for all students. GE outcomes create an additional layer that overlaps with ILOs, but are specific to degree and transfer students. To launch the process of developing GE outcomes, the college (through Kris) applied for and received a Lumina Foundation grant for using the Degree Qualifications Profile. Through this unfunded grant, the college would be supported in applying the DQP nationally-developed, "vetted" sequence of higher education outcomes to GE courses. Not only could this streamline the process of establishing GE SLOs, it would help SRJC broaden its connection to national movements in higher education.

Kris, KC, and Wanda attended a DQP workshop in the late spring to learn more about the process and make a timeline. The next step is correlating the DQP outcomes with GE courses. At this point, the project deals only with degrees and transfer courses, not CTE programs, and does not require immediate assessment of these outcomes. The "maps" used to show the relationship of courses to majors could include a third level demonstrating how the courses support the GE outcomes. Kris shared a chart showing the relationship between GE requirements and DQP GE outcomes, and discussion ensued.

The DQP and the next steps will be described in further depth at the next meeting.

Institutional Learning Outcomes. It was noted that SRJC students participated in a recent national survey on how many students voted in the last presidential election. The results from this would represent an assessment related to Responsibility.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45.