Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee

September 25, 2014, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
BU 130

Minutes

1. Call meeting to order: 3:40. Present are Marilyn, Randy, Bea, and Julian.

2. Approve minutes from last meeting: Done.

3. Amendments to agenda: None.

4. Discuss necessary components of website

   -Possibilities: ongoing faculty dialogue about assessment, best practices or guiding principles document, relevant/interesting articles, spotlight/personal profiles regarding faculty experiences (video interviews?), and a section specifically devoted to part-timer issues and concerns with SLO assessment process.

   M: for the part timer section, there should be a way for part timers to comment anonymously so as to promote involvement. Also, it should be easy to access—one click from main page.

   We discussed the possibility of using iLearn for the site. The benefits are that many folks know how to use it, and it is already integrated with our campus. The costs are that many folks don’t use it, and it is a bit cumbersome to get to. Also, the layout is restrictive. We should contact Sabrina to see what percentage of faculty use iLearn so as to approximate faculty comfort level.

   -To what extent, if any, should this be combined with professional development’s online efforts... we don’t really want to have competing websites.

   Committee felt that integrating our efforts with professional development is a good idea, with one caviat: there should be a distinct and relatively prominent section or identity for SLO and assessment issues.

5. It may be possible to get SLO/PLO assessment in the contract. Does the committee support this? If so, under what conditions? What form should the addition to the contract take?

   This topic requires significant discussion going forward. M: we need something to reduce the anxiety level (training) and to incentivize participation ($). Part timers will be highly motivate to participate with a financial incentive. SLO’s should not be assessed during the first semester a course is taught since folks are just getting comfortable.
All felt that it would be optimal to find a way for $ incentive to be contingent on participation. It would be terrible to get this in the contract and end up in the same place we are now in.

We would need an assessment report similar to what we have now, but also an assessment schedule for each course. This should be done at the department level. B: caution should be taken here because there is a push to change the department chair framework and duties... SLO topics should be kept away from politicized issues like this.

6. Other ideas for engaging faculty more deeply in the assessment process?

B: website is a good idea, but we should diversify our efforts if we are trying to show more faculty involvement. R: liaison should go to department chair meetings to be available and communicate in person. People won’t respond to emails and won’t come to trainings.


Karen Warren suggests members check out the website below as an example of a possibility for our own:

https://sites.google.com/a/sce.cc.ca.us/slo-program/worksheets/slo-training-module-1