



COLLEGE OF MARIN ACADEMIC SENATE

March 2011

As College of Marin breathes a sigh of relief after having its accreditation reaffirmed by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), we'd like to look back at what we've accomplished, take a moment to congratulate ourselves, and then take stock of what we need to accomplish between now and next October and subsequently by the Fall of 2012. --Sara McKinnon, Academic Senate President

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Just so you know how unique we are, ACCJC at its January 2011 meeting made the following rulings:

6 colleges were reaffirmed including the College of Marin!

As for the others...

- 6 were placed on Warning
- 1 placed on Probation
- 1 continued on Show Cause
- 1 continued on Warning
- 6 continued on Probation
- 2 Closure Reports were accepted

Not to mention all the schools already on probation or warning from the June 2010 rulings...

ACCREDITATION

REAFFIRMED!

A LOOK BACK...

We recently received a note from a colleague at another Bay Area community college that said in part: *"The vice president has produced a pretty thorough draft outlining an integrated planning process. He stole a lot from Marin. I congratulated him on picking such a brilliant plan."*

He thinks they might pull off another "Marin Miracle." Who says you can't cram for a final?

Accreditation: What we accomplished 2004-2008

College of Marin had a comprehensive evaluation visit in November of 2004 at which time the college was put on “warning”. Since we did not address these recommendations adequately over the subsequent 4 years, we were put on probation in 2008. In 2004, five major recommendations were sent with a timeline for completion. These included the following:

1) *The college should finalize immediately an **effective governance structure** that reinforces respectful dialog, defines shared government, and outlines the roles and responsibilities of all constituent groups for participation in informed decision-making processes. The processes must be designed to result in action with on-going assessment and evaluation of institutional effectiveness to improve student learning.*

This recommendation was considered “met” by November of 2006. If you look at the back cover of this newsletter, you will see “faculty participants” in all of our governance committees listed.

2) The college should complete the reexamination of the **college mission statement** immediately to ensure it defines the purpose of the institution and addresses the emerging educational needs of the changing and diverse population of the district. The college must establish and adhere to a systematic and regular cycle for reviewing and updating the mission statement.

This recommendation was considered “met” by March of 2005.

3) *The college should implement, by January 2006, an **institutional planning process** based on agreed upon institutional values, a redefined mission, and measurable outcomes, that is **strategic, systematic, data-driven, evidence based, focused on student learning and holds responsible parties accountable for actions and timelines. The planning process must integrate institutional***

***effectiveness and program review processes to inform educational master planning, facilities master planning, technology planning, student learning and services programs development and revision, and resource allocation.** To ensure effective and sustainable plans and informed decision-making, the College must assess its current organizational structure and use of resources to create and support a culture of evidence, research and data.*

Much of this recommendation was finally met after College of Marin was placed on probation in 2008, and all of us worked together to do the program review process. The Education Master Plan was completed in Fall of 2008. A technology plan was completed in Spring of 2010. A combined planning and budget committee known as the Planning and Resource Allocation Committee (PRAC) was formed in Fall of 2009 as well. A final revised Integrated Planning Manual was approved in October of 2010.

4) *The college by January 2006 develop and implement a systematic, inclusive, on-going process that addresses **student learning outcomes** at the course, program and discipline level as well as for the general institutional dialogue that leads to action, assessment and measurement of student learning resulting in institutional improvements.*

This recommendation was and has been only partially met. The “drop-dead” deadline is Fall 2012. Faculty have been revising and updating course outlines, degrees and certificates to include measurable outcomes; rubrics for college-wide outcomes assessment are being piloted this semester in general education courses; a tool has been developed to assist faculty in tracking their students progress in achieving course-level outcomes. **However, the key to meeting this recommendation is the assessment of those SLOs, and dialog with resulting strategies for improvement.**

College of Marin Accreditation Affirmed by ACCJC!

Dr. Coon visited our Academic Senate meeting the day our letter came from WASC announcing the reaffirmation of College of Marin's accreditation. After Dr. Coon told us we had been reaffirmed, senators said, "Oh, okay, thanks" and went on with our busy agenda. It wasn't until the next day that it occurred to many of us that this was *a really big deal* and that we had just sailed right past it like it was nothing.

Our previous accreditation process was a nightmare that took us from years of warning to one near-overwhelming year on probation. And now, at a time when WASC is aggressively sanctioning other colleges, we go through the self-evaluation process and are reaffirmed without much fanfare or self congratulations. But really, we can't resist.

Self-Study Wizards: Blaze Woodlief and David Snyder oversaw the writing of an outstanding self-study. Chialin Hsieh and Barbara David and all of Chialin's staff provided vital research and planning support. Together with Cathy Summa-Wolf and her staff, they produced an impressive web site and a beautiful self-study document.

The Steering Committee included faculty members Blaze Woodlief, Becky Reetz, Derek Wilson, Kathleen Smyth, and Win Cottle. The Standard Chairs did a remarkable job of writing various sections of the study and chasing down evidence.

Standard I, *Mission and Effectiveness*, faculty members included Michael Dougan, Robert Kennedy, and Tara Flandreau.

Standard II, *Student Learning*, included faculty members Win Cottle, Becky Brown, Meg Pasquel, Sara McKinnon, Becky Reetz, Radica Portello, Rinetta Early, Robert Flynn, Ron Gaiz, Carl Cox, Joan Risch, John Marmysz.

Standard III, *Resources*, included faculty members Blaze Woodlief, Kathleen Smyth, Ingrid Kelly, and Bonnie Borenstein.

Standard IV, *Leadership and Governance*, included faculty members Yolanda Bellisimo and Peggy Dodge.

And of course, it would be impossible to recount all of the work that Sara McKinnon, our Academic Senate President, has participated in to insure our reaccreditation – from program review, to SLOs and rubrics, from the degree and certificate SLO database to creator of the SLO WIKI, from the Strategic Plan and the Ed Master Plan to facilities planning, from the Curriculum Committee to PRAC, she is an all-around expert on everything at CoM. Sara is invaluable, a courageous advocate for our students and faculty, and a tireless contributor to the reaccreditation process.

These are the people who help make College of Marin the professional institution that it is. They set high standards, meet them, and make us all proud. They are responsible for our fine reputation.

They are the reason other schools borrow from us, ask for our advice, and hold us in high regard.

These are the faculty members who made sure we were reaffirmed and fully accredited. The Senate Officers extend a heartfelt thank you to all of them.

Derek Wilson
Vice President Academic Senate

Becky Brown
Secretary Academic Senate

Yolanda Bellisimo
Treasurer Academic Senate

Accreditation: The 2009-2010 Self-Study and Beyond

The Self-Study

As you can see, it took College of Marin the entire 6 year cycle of accreditation to meet the standards and address the recommendations adequately...Thus as soon as we were finally off warning and probation, we had to turn around and do a Self Study for the next site visit of Fall 2010.

So starting in Spring of 2009, the self-study process began again. On page 2 you will find a list of participants who met, researched, wrote reports, provided endnote links, proofed and gave final blessings to our self-study which was presented to the ACCJC visiting team in October 2010. If you have not seen it, it can be found at:

<http://marin.edu/com/ODP/Accreditation.htm>

The Site Visit

This self study along with a grueling three-day visit by a 10-member team has resulted in our reaffirmation of accreditation!

That said, it includes 8 recommendations which need to be initially addressed by October 2011. You will remember that it was by **NOT** addressing recommendations of 2004 that we ended up on warning and probation. So these are not idle threats. The commission can and will act. The letter states:

“I wish to inform you that under US Dept of Education regulations, institutions out of compliance with standards or on sanction are expected to correct deficiencies within a two-year period or the commission must take action to terminate accreditation. College of Marin must correct the deficiencies noted by October 15, 2012 or the Commission will be compelled to act.”

The recommendations are listed in the next column.

2011: Recommendations:

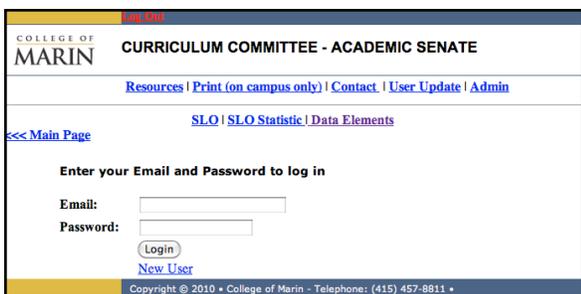
- 1) Update and evaluate effectiveness of **planning and resource allocation processes** and communicate the results to all college stakeholders. Make sure that planning is linked to budgeting.
- 2) Accelerate efforts to identify and assess measurable **student learning outcomes** for every instructional, library and student support program. Incorporate SLO assessment results into program planning and resource allocation for the improvement of student learning.
- 3) Allocate resources to create a sustainable infrastructure to support **Distance Ed**.
- 4) Strengthen **the role of research** in order to improve institutional effectiveness.
- 5) Remedy the lack of library services, learning resources and student support **services for evening, Indian Valley Campus and online students**.
- 6) (omitted from final recommendations)
- 7) Develop a **Facilities Master Plan**.
- 8) Establish and communicate a **sustainable technology plan** for the acquisition, maintenance and replacement of its infrastructure, equipment, support and training to meet institutional needs. Also regular evaluation of this plan for its effectiveness in prioritizing and funding current and projected long term technology needs.
- 9) The **board** should focus on developing policies that support the quality, integrity and effectiveness of student learning programs and services. It should deliberate with due diligence and make timely decisions that are in the best interests of the institution. It should act as a whole and adhere to board policy once a decision has been made and support the superintendent/president's authority in administering board policies and procedures.

Student Learning Outcomes Progress Report

Course Level SLOs

The course update process is almost complete with most course outlines including SLOs. The next step as far as accreditation goes - is communicating these SLOs to students - via your syllabus or other means. The final step is to ASSESS these SLOs in your classes - and analyzing the results of this assessment to see how your classes as a whole are dealing with the material you are presenting, if they are able to apply what they have been learning in your assessments and where you might need to find new strategies to help your students achieve these outcomes.

<http://programreview.marin.edu/cc>



General Education Courses

Courses that meet GE requirements must be assessed in terms of the five college-wide outcomes. These include:

- Written, Oral and Visual Communication
- Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy

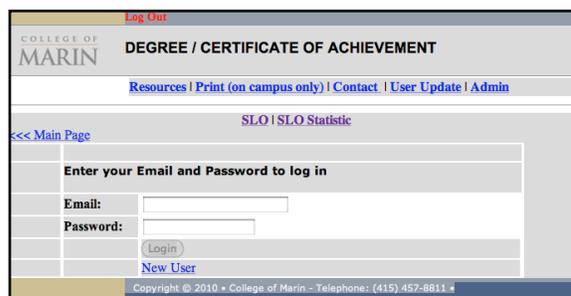
Common rubrics have been written for these outcomes and are being piloted in selected general education courses this semester. With a little tweaking, they will be available to everyone in fall 2011. These rubrics are posted on the PRIE website:

<http://marin.edu/com/ODP/InstitutionalPlanningPage.htm>

Degrees and Certificates

Student Learning Outcomes for Degrees and Certificates are being written and can be found through a link on the degree and certificate database log-in page.

<http://programreview.marin.edu/de>



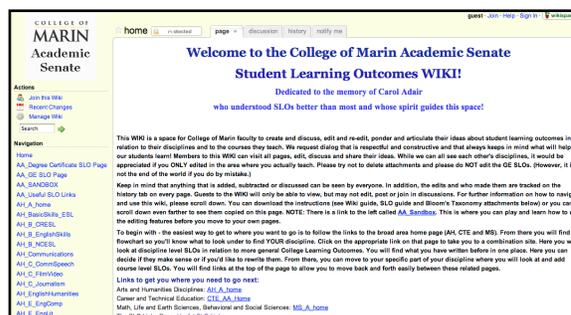
Student Services Outcomes

A call has gone out to get a faculty member to assist the student service areas in developing measurable SLOs and devising means to assess them. This person will be working in this area over the next 5 months.

The SLO WIKI

A resource for all faculty on our work on SLOs from all disciplines:

<http://com-academic-senate-slos.wikispaces.com/>



COM Faculty Governance Committee Members 2010 - 2011

as of March 3, 2011

College Council (Three Senate Officers)

- Sara McKinnon
- Becky Brown
- Yolanda Bellisimo

Planning and Resource Allocation Committee (PRAC):

Sara McKinnon/Nick Chang – Co-Chairs

- Michele Martinisi
- Yolanda Bellisimo
- Ron Gaiz
- Sara Lefkowitz
- Kathleen Smyth
- Earl Hagstrom

EDUCATION PLANNING COMMITTEE (still need 4)

Seven faculty members sit on this committee

- Blaze Woodlief (Chair)
- Peggy Dodge
- Bonnie Borenstein

FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE

Two faculty members sit on this committee

- Fernando Aguedelo-Silva
- Erik Dunmire

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Two faculty members sit on this committee

- Yolanda Bellisimo
- Anne Gearhart

STUDENT ACCESS AND SUCCESS

Two faculty members sit on this committee

- Karen Koenig
- Luz Moreno

INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE (need 4)

Five faculty members sit on this committee

- Arthur Lutz
- Paul DaSilva
- Ron Krempetz

GOVERNANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Three faculty members sit on this committee

- Wendy Walsh
- Victoria Coad

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (still need 5)

Seven faculty members sit on this committee

- Harriet Eskildsen
- Kathleen Smyth

SLO Facilitators:

Arts and Humanities/CTE:

- Yolanda Bellisimo

Math and Sciences, PE and Allied

Health:

- Anne Gearhart

Program Review Facilitator:

- Sara McKinnon

Curriculum Committee Chair:

Chris Schultz

- Kristi Kuhn, Paul Smith, Sara McKinnon, Becky Brown, A.Joe Ritchie, Letta Hlavacheck, Rinetta Early, Maula Allen, and Rebecca Beal

Academic Standards:

- Rinetta Early, Chair
- Toni Yoshioka
- Laurie Ordin

Equivalency Committee

- Yolanda Bellisimo
- Meg Pasquel

SLOAC Committee

Yolanda Bellisimo, Chair

Anne Gearhart

Fernando Aguedelo-Silva

Collen Marlow

Trina Miller

Robert Ovetz

Jessica Park

Cara Statucki

Adria Winfield

Blaze Woodlief

Distance Education Committee

Alisa Klinger, Chair

Maula Allen

Sandy Boyd

Carl Cox

John Erdman

James Gonzalez

Ingrid Kelly

Ira Lansing

John Marmysz

Luz Moreno

Kathleen Smyth

Brian Wilson

2010-2011 Academic Senate

Officers:

- Sara McKinnon President
- Derek Wilson Vice President
- Becky Brown Secretary
- Yolanda Bellisimo Treasurer

Additional Full time Members:

- Bonnie Borenstein
- Peggy Dodge
- Rinetta Early
- Arthur Lutz
- Joe Mueller
- John Sutherland
- Blaze Woodlief

Part-Time Credit

- Robert Ovetz
- Meg Pasquel
- Paul Cheney

Part Time Non-Credit

- Erika Harkins

<http://www.marin.edu/senate/index.html>