Assessment Coordinators

October 1, 2008
11:00-1:00 p.m.
Bachman 204 with VTC connections to Maui, Kaua‘i and Hilo

Present: Jan Morre (Maui), Patricia McGrath (Kaua‘i), Barbara Meguro (UHH), Jan Lubin (WCC), Lani Uyeno (Leeward), Kristine Korey-Smith (Kapi‘olani), Ross Egloria (Honolulu), Trina Nahm-Mijo (Hawai‘i), Monica Stitt-Bergh (UHM), flo wiger (CC system), Joanne Itano (UH System)

Kapi‘olani CC
Kristine Korey-Smith provided an overview of Kap CC’s program (3 handouts posted at Assessment Coordinator’s website [http://www.hawaii.edu/vpaa/system_aa/assessment_coordinators.html]).
There are 5 interdisciplinary faculty committees focused on gen ed SLOs, thinking, communication, self and community, esthetics and integrated learning. The group’s discussion has been rich and informative. The committees are to develop the rubrics and identify and gather the evidence for the assessment.

Thus far, SLOs developed for AA (Gen Ed), AS, CAs and certificates of completion. Program faculty developed program SLOs and are also to align courses to the SLOs; rubrics will be developed and then the collection of evidence and closing of the loop.

Because of the “tension” around SLOs (concern that faculty would be evaluated by the assessment of the SLOs), Kap CC started with gen ed SLOs. Faculty agreed on that approach.

Kap CC’s approach to assess support units is to ask, how does, for example, the business unit, help students meet the SLOs of their program. Lecturers who are paid late have added stress which may impact their teaching. See slide 14 of KCC Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Framework ppt file at [http://www.hawaii.edu/vpaa/system_aa/assessment_coordinators.html]
Monica Stitt-Bergh suggested that a logic model (program evaluation model) works for nonstructional units. An example is the NSF handbook which includes an example of logic models (see http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2002/nsf02057/start.htm. Another resource is social sciences evaluation.

ACCJC has mandated for several years that each course must have SLOs. WASC senior has added this to their standards.

It was suggested that Foothill-De Anza or Diazia Community Colleges have excellent WebPages regarding assessment.

A question of sampling was asked, how large is a random sample? For Kap CC it is yet to be determined as it is unclear yet what is the potential sample size for a specific assessment.

Regarding the need for IRB approval, it was reported that Bill Dendle has indicated that if there are plans to publish assessment data (even if reported as group data), IRB approval is needed. Some schools obtain a blanket approval from all students for use of their work for assessment activities.

UHH
Mary Allen, an assessment consultant, came to UHH last year. Faculty is working on program SLOs. New GE requirements have been adopted and 10 outcomes identified. Course level SLO’s are currently being added to those courses being certified under the new GE plan. Responses to the question as to where assessment documents are housed on your campus included: Library and IR office, VCAA office, IR and programs keep own documents,
public and internal website; Office of Planning and Assessment; Pat’s computer as there is no IR office; BK’s office

Kaua‘i CC
Started with course SLOs and now working on program and campus level SLOs. Every faculty member developing their own assessment plan as Kaua‘i CC has many one person departments. The structure is set up, now implementation is starting. Kaua‘i CC is beginning planning for program-level assessment in Spring 2009.

Use of assessment results is for program improvement. There needs to be a clear statement that results are not used as part of faculty evaluation. This may be something for UHPA and UH to deal with.

Maui CC
Working on linking course assignments to course SLOs and course SLOs to program SLOs. Capstone courses are being developed. For Spring 2009, need to develop curriculum maps between program SLOs and courses and also how courses support GE SLOs.

Windward CC
Started at the course level and now looking at Gen Ed and program SLOs. Courses have been mapped to AA degree and this is considered different from gen ed requirements. A question posed is will there be a liberal arts assessment and/or an AA transfer degree assessment. The campus is focusing on governance procedures because of ACCJC review. Examples of how campuses may be approaching this are welcomed by Jan.

Honolulu CC
Current mapping course SLOs to program SLOs and to GE SLOs. Used ACCJC standard 2A language for gen ed (from http://www.accjc.org/standards.htm, p 7)

General education has comprehensive learning outcomes for the students who complete it, including the following:

a. An understanding of the basic content and methodology of the major areas of knowledge: areas include the humanities and fine arts, the natural sciences, and the social sciences.

b. A capability to be a productive individual and life long learner: skills include oral and written communication, information competency, computer literacy, scientific and quantitative reasoning, critical analysis/logical thinking, and the ability to acquire knowledge through a variety of means.

c. A recognition of what it means to be an ethical human being and effective citizen: qualities include an appreciation of ethical principles; civility and interpersonal skills; respect for cultural diversity; historical and aesthetic sensitivity; and the willingness to assume civic, political, and social responsibilities locally, nationally, and globally.
Providing sessions on Bloom’s taxonomy and evaluating course outcomes using the taxonomy. Current issues is agreement on master syllabus and a repository of syllabus for every course taught and the use of different survey tool and thus, the inability to input the results into one database.

**Hawai‘i CC**
This is the fourth year of the comprehensive program review cycle and there has been ongoing improvement. There are 27 programs on campus and have developed a workable system to assess all programs. After this year, will determine if the campus will move to a five year cycle or program reviews. November is deadline for annual and comprehensive reviews. There is a college effectiveness review committee with 19 members. This committee will review all the program reviews and as a result will complete budget recommendations. There is an opportunity for programs to be a jumper, to complete a review earlier as they have a budge request. There is definite increase in understanding among faculty of the process, the rationale and the budgeting process. The campus started with program outcomes. All programs have curriculum maps from program SLOs and courses. Each program is to assess one outcome each year and will create a rubric to fit the outcome. An issue is college level SLOs, are they the same or different than gen ed outcomes. How does one approach GE SLO assessment? Is it integrated in some way to avoid having to do three separate assessments?

**UHM**
Gen ed outcomes are the institutional outcomes for the baccalaureate degree. There are additional institutional outcomes being developed. The experience at the UHM campus is varied. Professional schools have completed many assessment cycles and some programs have not completed any. WASC visits are scheduled for 2009 and 2011 and the efforts are now at having all programs develop SLOs and complete curriculum maps. There are over 200 programs at the UHM campus. The Assessment Office, staffed by two faculty specialists, is running workshops and the responses from faculty are varied from - will not complete, it will go away, to this is great. Working on trying to integrate assessment with the program review process, however currently program reviews are completed every 5 years and assessment is an annual ongoing event. Trying to tackle gen ed and program assessment simultaneously and do cohort sampling.

Assessment coordinators are invited to workshops. The workshops offered at the Manoa campus on October 8 & 9 and 14 & 15 are described here:
http://manoa.hawaii.edu/assessment/workshops/index.htm

There will be a link to assessment websites on the Assessment Coordinator’s webpage, please send URL to Suzi (suzi@hawaii.edu)

**Leeward CC**
The campus had a two day workshop in August with a consultant from El Rancho CC for all administrators, faculty and staff. This grew out of a review of course syllabi where it
was found that some courses had as many as 62 objectives. Capstone courses are being developed and SLOs, rubrics and an assessment model are to be developed for each course. They have an assessment team of 12. Institutional learning outcomes have been developed
(http://www.hawaii.edu/vpaa/cms/LCC_Institutional_Learning_Outcomes.pdf)

There are face to face meetings with program faculty to develop SLOs and assessment methods.

Assessment of support units is challenging. A helpful document is from University of Central Florida regarding assessment of administrative support units

Ongoing issues

- Will there be a CC assessment workshop like the one last spring 08? flo wiger to follow up.
- What is the financial support for assessment, bringing teams to workshops, positions/release time for assessment?
- Course SLOs are being developed in each campus; do comparable courses have similar SLOs?
- Should there be consistency among the CCs regarding SLOs, for example for the AA degree or gen ed?

Next meeting:
Spring 2009