FS Task Group

April 9, 2010

130-330 p.m.

Bachman 203 and VTC connections to Kaua‘i, Leeward, Windward

Present: JB Nation (UHM), Linda Furuto (UHWO), Ron Pine (Honolulu), Mary Beard (Kapi‘olani), Jon Kalk (Kaua‘i) and convener, Jiajia Seffrood (Leeward), Young-a Choi (Windward), Joanne Itano (UH System)

FS and Accreditation Standards

From the WASC Senior Accreditation Standards:

2.2a. Baccalaureate programs engage students in an integrated course of study of sufficient breadth and depth to prepare them for work, citizenship, and a fulfilling life. These programs also ensure the development of core learning abilities and competencies including, but not limited to, college-level written and oral communication, college-level quantitative skills, information literacy, and the habit of critical analysis of data and argument. In addition, baccalaureate programs actively foster an understanding of diversity, civic responsibility, the ability to work with others, and the capability to engage in lifelong learning. Baccalaureate programs also ensure breadth for all students in the areas of cultural and aesthetic, social and political, as well as scientific and technical knowledge expected of educated persons in this society. Finally, students are required to engage in an in-depth, focused, and sustained program of study as part of their baccalaureate programs.


The UHM representative indicated that FS was described as meeting the quantitative methods and logic/reasoning requirements. The Hon CC representative who was part of a group developing the hallmarks in 1995 indicated that the FS requirement was not intended to meet accreditation standards. It was something that all campuses could agree on for a foundations requirement. It may be that campuses need to consider a QM requirement for students. Hon CC has a separate quantitative methods requirement for their students.
How do other campuses review/recertify FS courses?

At Kap and Hon CC faculty apply for new/renewal. The application includes how the SLOs will be assessed. Hon CC has a knowledge assessment, 7-8 questions administered pre and post course. Ron Pine will share the assessment with the group. The UHM representative indicated that he declines to participate in assessment. Campuses designate courses for 5 years.

There was discussion on differences in the detail provided in applications for FS designation varying from a few pages to 20+. Each campus has a Foundations board that reviews courses and explanatory notes should help the review process. Jon Kalk suggested that developing guidelines for application would be a helpful project. This would be done via email.

Where are FS courses listed at your campus?

Kap and Hon CC has this information on their intranet.

Why is there a need to go through the FS renewal process if the courses are articulated?

FS is a general education designation and articulation refers to equivalency of course content. Courses could be similar in content but not meet the FS hallmarks.

Other discussion points

The Kaua‘i representative asked how a course can teach the content of to meet the SLOs 103/135/140 and also fulfill the rigorous FS hallmarks.

Discussion on do students need to actually do proofs or is it sufficient to understand proofs or recognize if there is an error or doing a “baby” proof?

Could other courses besides philosophy and math be FS designated? Currently Bus 250, Econ 301 and NREM 203 are FS designated at UHM. Discrete math 141/241 is also FS designated. Could a music course be FS if one can show that reasoning is involved? Further discussion that in music there are symbols but probably not reasoning involved.

At LCC and WCC, FS hallmarks are reviewed with students at the completion of the class as part of their assessment process. Assessment is completed every two years rather than every semester.