

RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ON ALL NEW AND AMENDED SYLLABI

WHEREAS, student learning outcomes (SLOs) specify observable knowledge, skills, or attitudes that students should be able to demonstrate when they have completed a course;

WHEREAS, SLOs help focus teaching on what students should know and be able to do and value as a result of taking a course as opposed to focusing on content that is presented in the course;

WHEREAS, SLOs enable students to better understand what they can expect to learn, what they are learning, and what they have learned from a particular course;

WHEREAS, publication of SLOs enables units to better facilitate student learning across the curriculum both "horizontally" (application of knowledge, skills, and attitudes in different contexts) and "vertically" (progressive development of knowledge, skills, and attitudes) and to integrate outcomes across courses, programs, and the institution;

WHEREAS, SLOs are a vital part of "assessment for excellence," an information feedback process to guide individual students, faculty members, programs, and schools in continually improving their effectiveness;

WHEREAS, SLOs also play a part in "assessment for accountability" that asks to faculty to provide evidence to stakeholders about the ways in which our students meet explicitly stated goals and expectations; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate passed a Resolution in September 2000 supporting "an assessment process for all departments and programs, in order to revitalize the spirit and practice in higher education of paying substantial attention to the learning achievement of its students;"

WHEREAS, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Handbook of Accreditation (2008) states that:

“2.3 The institution's student learning outcomes and expectations for student attainment are clearly stated at the course, program and, as appropriate, institutional level. These outcomes and expectations are reflected in academic programs and policies; curriculum; advisement; library and information resources; and the wider learning environment;”

Be it resolved that:

1. syllabi for all courses should clearly state the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), or equivalent statements that specify what observable knowledge, skills, or attitudes students should be able to demonstrate when they have completed a course;
2. syllabi for all new and amended courses must clearly state Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) in order to be approved by the appropriate curriculum committee(s);
2. UHM-1 and UHM-2 forms include a check box to show whether the syllabi for all new and amended courses clearly state the expected Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and are judged by the chair/director of the program to be consistent with the learning outcomes of the program under which the course is listed.