

A Closer Look

October 2008

Office of Instruction & Institutional Research

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of "Closer Look" the monthly newsletter from the Office of Instruction and Institutional Research at Foothill College. Particularly in these times of increased state and federal regulations and financial uncertainty, the need for continuous and timely communication with the explicit commitment to clarity and transparency of process is extremely important. Our goal with this newsletter is to help inform the campus of activities, proposals, ideas, generated from the Office of Instruction and the areas of Articulation, College Skills (Basic Skills Initiative), Curriculum, Honors, Program Planning, and Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment (SLOAC).

We are improving the look and information on our website throughout the quarter as new information becomes available. If you want something added to the website, or an issue you would like to see the newsletter address please let me know.

Your input and feedback is essential for improvement. Feel free to send any suggestions to anyone in our office.

Thank You,
Duncan W. Graham
Interim Vice President of Instruction & Institutional Research

Cori's Curriculum Corner

Check out the online Curriculum page to see this year's current College Curriculum Committee (CCC) agenda and agenda item submission deadlines. You can access Curriculum information by going directly to:

<http://www.foothill.edu/staff/irs/Curriculum/index.php>

This site has links to all the agendas, attachments and

minutes for each CCC meeting, curriculum-related reference materials, and contacts.

Further changes will be made as the Fall quarter progresses:

1. An Outline Approval Flow Chart will be added - to show all the steps of the course approval process.
2. A C3MS Faculty Users Guide, Curriculum Representative User's Guide, and a Division Dean

User Guide will be added to the resource list - to assist you in navigating the process.
3. A C3MS Blog will be established for FAQs and dialog regarding suggestions, upgrades and problems.
4. Any and all C3MS changes will be announced on the Curriculum Home page and in the newsletter.

-Cori Nunez

Convocation Invitation

Join us in the Dining Hall at 8:30AM-2:45PM on Halloween Friday, for our second SLO Convocation. If it's October it's baseball and our theme this time is Batter Up! RBIs and Assessment Cycles.

We'll begin with a continental breakfast, spend the morning with Mary Allen, WASC trainer and assessment expert, and try out specific assessment tools and learning that can be applied to all disciplines.

After lunch, we'll get out of the "on deck circle" and into the "batter's box."

Contact Rosemary Arca at x7543, arcarosemary@foothill.edu for more information!

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The SLO Primer: What's it All About?

Lots of acronyms in the air! What do they all mean? Here's a chance to learn more about the important projects we're working on this year as we begin our development of student learning outcome assessment cycles. Let's start with the big picture and then focus in on the course level.

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes (4Cs)

First of all a context for our discussion: You'll remember that we developed some institutional outcomes for our 21st century students. We called them the 4Cs---critical thinking, computation, communication, and citizenship/global consciousness. These are the "habits of mind" that we help our students develop in all of our courses. And how do we know that our students have mastered these competencies?

....Here's **FRAMES**.

Foothill's **Rubric Assessment Model for Evaluating SLOs** is a series of criteria developed by

PIE anyone?

Beginning Wednesday, 12:00PM, November 12, join Rosemary Arca and colleagues for conversation about SLOs and PIE (purposeful intellectual exploration)! Join us every Wednesday until the end of the quarter. Bring your questions about writing SLOs, about matching outcomes with

faculty. These rubrics can be applied across disciplines to describe student mastery of each of our institutional outcomes. In fact, the teams developing and piloting these rubrics are engaged in some great conversations about teaching and learning across the curriculum and you can join in.

And that brings us to **PROGRAM PLANNING**.

Now and Then! Now (actually this Winter) each program will develop one program SLO when it completes the Annual Update required this year. Then, each Division's programs will complete an extended Program Plan every five years. Both the Annual Update and the Program Planning documents will "inform" resource allocation and decision making.

As we focus in, we move to the course level and to **SLOACs**.

Each **student learning outcome assessment cycle** is a product of the instructors conversation

assessments and about the DARED process to the Faculty and Staff Lounge (Rm 1929) and enjoy a slice of homemade pie and coffee. Here's your chance to find out more and ask questions about all those elements that make a successful student learning outcomes assessment cycle!

about the learning that takes place at the course level. The SLOAC cycle includes defining student learning outcomes, reflecting on the data gained from the assessments, and using the information to improve learning.

DARED

The method we're using to review our continual improvement of instruction as mandated by accreditation. This is a cycle of **defining, assessing, reflecting, and enhancing** learning in our courses, as well as **documenting** the entire process.

And that's about it. Granted, it's a little alphabet-soupy but it's also a process that demonstrates our commitment to deep learning and to our students' success at all levels of our college community.

-Rosemary Arca



No need to RSVP; just bring your intellect and a healthy appetite for dessert. -Rosemary Arca

Online Learning Update

Judy Baker is managing a Hewlett-funded grant project for 50% of her time during Fall and Winter quarters. With 50% backfill and an Innovation Grant, she's invested in four major projects and initiatives, including:

Online Course Quality: A project designed to address the quality of online courses, specifically student evaluation of online courses and compliance with Title 5 requirements for

documenting 'regular effective contact' between instructors and students in online courses, as well as to further build our learning community of online faculty that was started last year with regular meetings and the Etudes Course Showcase event.

Student ePortfolio (Innovations Grant Project): A project designed to support faculty and students who want to pilot-test the use of student ePortfolios as an

alternative assessment tool. Low-enrollment Online Courses: A project designed to explore ways to promote our low enrollment online courses.

Use of Virtual and Home Science Labs in Online Courses: A research project that will collect information on this issue from faculty and literature. The final research report will be presented to the Curriculum Committee by the end of December.

College Skills & Basic Skills Initiative Update

Based on campus conversations last year we are renaming Basic Skills on campus to College Skills. Anything still called Basic Skills Initiative (BSI) pertains directly to some aspect of California's state-wide basic skills initiative and funding.

We are in the process of putting together the College Skills Steering Committee to direct and implement the BSI Action Plan developed last year, as well as add

new initiatives through research and staff development activities.

We filed our initial five-year BSI action plan with the State, and the steering committee will be developing related resource allocation planning for this year. Presuming our funding continues for 2009-2010, we will implement one for next year during Spring Quarter of 2009.

In addition to the steering committee, we will continue to

have College Skills Committee meetings. If you were on an BSI investigative team last year or your name is on the action plan, this is the place to be. Check out our Campus Skills website to see the conversations and recommendations that have happened and will continue to happen.

To join, contact Lucy Rodriguez at x7240, rodriguezlucy@foothill.edu

FRAMES Global Consciousness & Citizenship Project

Seeking Globally Conscious Citizens to join FRAMES Rubric Team 4. You will develop a pilot rubric to assess our institutional outcome of global consciousness and citizenship. You will actively participate in one or two meetings a quarter over one year with a \$1000 stipend upon completion of the project. *Contact Rosemary Arca at x7543, arcarosemary@foothill.edu.*

Wanted

Big Picture Idea people to join the SLO Steering Committee. Open to all the college community. We'll meet quarterly to shepherd the SLO process. *Contact Rosemary Arca x7543, arcarosemary@foothill.edu*

- **October 31/9AM-3PM:** SLO Convocation: Batter Up! RBIs & Assessment Cycles.
- **November 5/12PM:** Workshop 1: Assessment Nuts and Bolts: Practical Examples of Tested Methods
- **February 27/9AM-3PM:** SLO Convocation LENSES: Reflection on Data & What's Next?
- **February 25/12PM:** Reflection strategies & Organizational Models: Hands-on

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