

Dear Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, Department Chairs, Program Directors, and Department Administrators,

I would like to thank the departments and programs in the College for responding to my request (see attachment) to place program Mission, Goals, and Objectives (MGOs) on the program website for the purpose of making more visible our efforts at assessment of student learning.

Recently, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies Diane Jonte-Pace provided updated information to the campus about Santa Clara's WASC reaccreditation process (email of 07/14/08). In particular, WASC has an explicit expectation for faculty members in the area of student learning:

"The institution's expectations for learning and student attainment...at the course, program, and, as appropriate, institutional level...are developed and widely shared among its members...Faculty take collective responsibility for establishing, reviewing, fostering, and demonstrating the attainment of these expectations." (Criteria for Review 2.3, 2.4)

To follow up on Diane's recent email, and again for the purpose of making more visible our efforts at assessment of student learning and to respond to the WASC expectation, I am writing to ask all faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences to place course-level and, where appropriate, program-level learning goals and objectives on all course syllabi beginning with the fall quarter.

Examples of syllabi that contain learning goals and objectives are found in the 2008-2009 pilot courses that have been approved for Cultures and Ideas and Critical Thinking and Writing in the new Core Curriculum.

<http://www.scu.edu/core2009/Pilot-Courses-2008-2009.cfm>

Examples of course-level (not Core Curriculum) learning objectives are found on these MIT web pages:

<http://web.mit.edu/tll/teaching-materials/learning-objectives/index.html#examples>

<http://web.mit.edu/tll/teaching-materials/learning-objectives/15279.html>

Since departments and programs have Alignment Matrixes showing which program-level goals and objectives are covered in which courses, it should be straightforward for faculty to place these into the appropriate course syllabus. To access the department's/program's Alignment Matrix, faculty should contact the department chair, program director, or department administrator.

Including learning goals and objectives in course syllabi is helpful not only for Santa Clara's WASC accreditation. Clear communication of course learning objectives also

improves student learning. Faculty in the Leavey School of Business and the School of Engineering have already been including program-level learning objectives on their syllabi for several years in response to accreditation requirements by AACSB and ABET, respectively.

Please contact your department's/program's associate dean or Director of Assessment Carol Ann Gittens CGittens@scu.edu if you have questions. Thank you again for your assistance on this important matter!

Sincerely,
-Atom

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