**Learning Outcomes and Assessment (LOA) Task Force**

**2015-2016 End of Year Summary Report**

**Membership**

Ron Boldenow, CTE

Sara Henson, Transfer

Julie Hood-Gonsalves, Transfer

Tony Russell, Faculty Assessment Coordinator

Alisa Schneider, CTE

Vickery Viles, Director of Curriculum and Assessment

Malinda “Mindy” Williams, Transfer

Wayne Yeatman, CTE

**2015-16 Year in Context**

In spring 2014, Academic Affairs approved the creation of a task force to guide the College’s work on student learning outcomes and instructional assessment with the intent that the task force would eventually form a standing committee.

The creation of this task force stalled during AY 2014–15 for several reasons, including changes in instructional administration and work on in the 2015 Mid Cycle Self-Evaluation Report (NWCCU).

In AY 2015–16, the interim Chief Academic Officer, Jenni Newby, the Director of Assessment and Curriculum, Vickery Viles, and the Faculty Assessment Coordinator, Tony Russell, coordinated to select a group of volunteers who had varying levels of experience with assessment. They were also selected from different parts of the College (CTE and Transfer) as well as different geographical locations at the College.

The LOA task force’s primary goal was to reassess and move forward with the 2014 proposal to Academic Affairs to form a standing committee. They also set about to define the framework and structure of assessment at the College and to create tools to help others to better understand the process of continuous improvement.

**Major Topics and Action Items**

* Revised LOA Committee Proposal rationale, charge, and composition:
	+ The revised rationale focuses on building on the College’s progress toward a process of continual improvement, ensuring that the effort is faculty led, and defining the relationship between the VPI, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, and VPI.
	+ The revised charge emphasizes LOA’s coaching role in supporting and sustaining a culture of inquiry and in ensuring the process is regular and consistent.
	+ The revised composition seeks to ensure wide representation across the different areas of the instruction (7 FT faculty: 2 CTE, 2 Transfer, 3 At-Large) and coordination with the Director of Curriculum and Assessment.
* Academic Affairs sent the committee proposal request to Pres. Metcalf, which was approved 18 May 2016
	+ Elections to take place through Faculty Forum in fall 2016
	+ AA requested a list of possible future members, which was sent 11 May 2016.
* Reviewed 13+ years’ worth of assessment efforts at COCC
* Reviewed state of course and program outcomes overall
* Defined set of guiding principles for future work
* Reviewed NWCCU accreditation standards
* Discussed degree outcomes for Transfer and how PCC does them
* Attempted to create a visual image of what the cycle of assessment should look like (tabled)
* Participated in a workshop to review course outcomes and discussed strategies for working with faculty to improve them
* Used an “Elements of…COCC’s Current System of Continuous Improvement and Assessment” table to outline the College’s current assessment process and to suggest how best to proceed with these process in the future

**Course and Program Outcome Consultations**

In 2015-16, LOA members worked collectively or in small groups to work with

* The Culinary program to improve course (21) and program outcomes
* The Business department’s revision of the course outcomes for BA 233, BA 237, and BA 239
* The ECE program’s course outcomes for ED 176, ED 235, and ED 290
* The course outcomes for Humanities course HUM 230

**Major topics for the coming academic year**

* Continue to develop a structure and framework for assessment that includes course, program, general education, related instruction, and degree levels
* Create a pictorial representation of the cycle of assessment
* Address how professionalism is measured, particularly in CTE programs
* Decide whether or not to have Transfer degree outcomes or to use “program” outcomes (pre-major or meta-major) as degree outcomes
* Map relationship with Curriculum Committee (who approves/reviews what and when)
* Develop workshops or training activities for Columbus (Indigenous Peoples’ or Native American) Day

Compiled by Tony Russell, Assessment Coordinator