

PDT Faculty Engagement with Program Learning Outcomes

Fall 2015

The topic of PDT's Program Learning Outcomes and their relationship to the articulation of SLOs on course syllabi has been a topic of core faculty meetings every semester.

At the beginning of the Fall 2015 semester (on Sept. 1), Gary Raucher, as interim PDT Chair convened a meeting for both core and adjunct faculty to better coordinate on issues of curriculum and monitoring of student performance. This was the first such meeting for both core and adjunct PDT faculty in several years, since it has been typically very difficult to coordinate schedules. On this occasion we had 6 of 7 faculty teaching PDT courses or sections this semester present.

One of the items on the agenda was a discussion of PLOs and SLOs. Here is the relevant excerpt from the meeting minutes:

- Discussion about Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's). They are present on our website and should be reflected in syllabi. Travis will send out this document (PLOs) for everyone to see. We are entering a new WASC accreditation cycle. Gary suggested discussing the Learning Outcomes addressed to date at the time the students are given a chance to do mid-term evaluations of the instructor. Susan endorsed this as a creative way to focus and contain the evaluation, and mentioned that setting a strict time limit for this activity can help contain a process that can take too long. Doug uses "roses and thorns" approach for the mid-term evaluation. Gary prepares for some courses a simple form for students to notate the extent to which they have engaged in SLOs to that point in the semester. Gary also distributed for faculty review a new section of the PDT Student Handbook that directs student attention to the significance of SLOs. He asked faculty to be sure and address explicitly this portion of the syllabus with students in each class. There followed brief discussion on how this may not register in meaningful way for students till they are somewhat into the course. The midterm and end-of term evaluation of courses and instructors by students are key points for reinforcing significance of SLOs.

The relevant section of the PDT Student Handbook is attached for review (in this shared folder).