

Las Positas College Academic Senate: Providing Accurate Data of Course Student Learning Outcomes Compliance

WHEREAS, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges maintains that “outcomes assessment is a productive activity that can improve teaching practices and thus enhance student learning,” and that “faculty should engage in SLO development and assessment not because it is a requirement for accreditation but rather because it is good professional practice that can benefit programs and students” (*Guiding Principles for SLO Assessment, 2010*); and

WHEREAS: The Academic Senate of Las Positas College demonstrates integrity in its communications with its regional accrediting body by providing accurate data in all reports of student learning outcomes compliance; and

WHEREAS: Compliance with current accreditation standards requires the college to calculate the percentage of total course offerings that have ongoing assessment results; and

WHEREAS: Reliance solely upon the college catalog, printed schedule of course offerings, or eLumen database would be misleading or misrepresent the actual total number of course offerings because some courses listed in these documents and database may not be offered during the reporting period, may be canceled, or may be cross-listed or have dual-CRNs; and

WHEREAS: Student learning outcomes cannot be applied consistently to Independent Study and Colloquium courses in which learning objectives are customized for each individual student; and

WHEREAS: Common assessments are most useful for determining course improvements in Families of courses which are composed of separate courses each having related student learning outcomes;

RESOLVED: That neither the college catalog, the schedule of course offerings, nor eLumen should be the sole determinants in identifying the total number of course offerings; and

RESOLVED: That Independent Study and Colloquium courses shall be excluded from the calculation of total course offerings and that families of courses, cross-listed courses, and dual-CRN courses shall be treated as single courses in determining the total number of course offerings; and

RESOLVED: That any future modifications to the calculation of total number of course offerings shall be documented in the Assessment Manual and reported to the Academic Senate so as to ensure accurate assessment of the college’s student learning outcomes compliance.