

Student Learning Committee (SLC)
Minutes from Meeting on February 26, 2015

Committee members present: Kendrick Brown (chair), Nancy Bostrom, Keith Edwards, Polly Fassinger, Terri Fishel, Jim Hoppe, Diane Michelfelder, Paul Overvoorde, Jaine Strauss.

Absent: Kimerly Miller, student representatives yet to be named by MCSG.

- I. The next SLC meeting, originally scheduled for March 12 has been cancelled. The next meeting will take place on March 26.
- II. SLC reviewed several action reports to identify evidence that is connected to Think Critically and Analyze Effectively (TCAE). At this meeting, attention was focused on action reports from several academic departments and offices. The next meeting will include information from Student Affairs offices. All action reports must be treated as confidential.

The committee perceived clear or potential connections between TCAE outcomes and these action reports:

Outcomes:	1	2	3	4	5	General
Biology	--	Indirect? Direct?	--	--	--	--
Chemistry	--	Direct?	--	Direct?	--	Direct?
Environmental Studies	--	Indirect	--	Indirect	--	--
Geology	--	Direct	--	Direct	--	--
International Studies	--	Indirect	--	Indirect	--	--
Library	--	Direct	Direct	--	--	Direct
Linguistics	--	Direct	--	Direct	--	--
Psychology	--	--	--	Direct?	--	--
Sociology	--	--	Direct		--	--

In some cases, additional detail will be necessary to determine whether the “potential” connections are indeed a good match for the outcome. Other observations:

- The ability to “articulate a research question” appears to be a common thread among departments who have some connection to TCAE; however this particular skill is not explicitly captured in the current TCAE outcome language.
 - Where we have evidence that students can formulate a good question, should we capture it?

- Through this process, we are testing the institutional goals and outcomes and how well they match up with learning that takes place in departments and offices. We may make suggestions for improvement to the Statement of Student Learning. To facilitate the process in the future, the action report template will ask departments and offices to identify any explicit connections to the goal and outcomes under consideration.
- Learning outcome #1 (Question both stated and unstated assumptions and explore issues from multiple perspectives) may overlap with another goal and outcome. It also includes more than one emphasis.
- Learning outcome #4 (Synthesize and critique relevant information to formulate defensible conclusions, build upon existing knowledge, or create novel ideas) includes multiple emphases. Some evidence meets one aspect, but not all.
- Learning outcome #5 (Re-evaluate their own conclusions when considering new information relevant to an issue) may be happening, but may not be easily captured.

Action Item: In cases where additional information is needed, Kendrick will follow-up with departments for clarification.

Action Item: For the next meeting, Student Affairs representatives were asked to examine action reports from that division and note possible connections to TCAE.