

To accomplish great things, we must not only act but also dream; not only plan, but also believe—Anatole France

From Academic Senate President Allison Moore



Planning, planning, planning. Right now, we are in the midst of several overlapping, related planning efforts. If you fail to plan, you plan to fail. We've all heard this old adage said and it frequently goes in one ear and out the other. But we've also all lived it. We can't afford to fail to plan. Knowing this, we are working hard to learn how to develop good plans, execute those plans and measure what we accomplished.

In this issue, we thought we would take some time to highlight some of the planning processes we are most actively engaged in right now and illustrate how these plans work together. No one wants to feel as if their work is fruitless, and hopefully—by showing how these plans work together and how they are used to increase student success—everyone will see that their efforts contribute a great deal to the success of the college. Alone we are but a raindrop, but together we are a mighty storm and our storm will change the landscape of our community. One day, we will wake to a wonderful rainbow shining over Southwest College. But today, we prepare.

We are in the midst of conducting program reviews; developing any remaining SLOs and kicking the assessment phase into high gear; and we are also working to compile the information for the first draft of the accreditation self-study by the end of the fall semester. Plans, plans and more plans. And don't forget that we are currently assessing and modifying the Strategic Plan and the ICOP* (and what is the ICOP, anyway?).

* The ICOP is the Integrated College Operational Plan which is a short-term (1 year) approach to moving the 3-year Strategic Plan forward. It's the college's operational plan for the year - what are we going to focus on this year?

So what's the point? Just another plan to write and put on the shelf so you can check the complete box and move on to the next item on your to do list? I can assure you that this is not what happens. I can attest to the fact that the Strategic Plan and the related ICOPs have been a guiding force in the operations of the College over the past several years, and we are really proud of the effort the entire College community has put forth in this area. The Strategic Plan is developed from the various other plans (such as the Staff Development Plan, the Technology Plan, the Educational Master Plan, etc) and program reviews for both instructional and non-instructional programs. Meaning we have all had a hand in developing the College's Strategic Plan. **So let me assure you that your program reviews and other plans are really read and assessed and incorporated into the College's overall planning efforts.** Nothing goes on the shelf. As I worked on the program review for Accounting the other day (great job on the working session, Program Review committee!), I was working on it with an eye toward contributing to the overall objectives of the college, but at the same time I was working to develop a road map for the development of the Accounting discipline for the next several years. So while I was concerned that it be used for the overall planning efforts of the college, I was also concerned that the Accounting discipline has a working document to drive it forward over the next few years. I am challenging all of you to make the same commitment to your planning efforts.

We are all an invaluable part of the process, and I urge each of you to learn how the process works and find your place in it. We are all a major factor in the success of LASC, and together we can change the landscape of our community. Good luck in all your planning efforts!

LOS ANGELES SOUTHWEST COLLEGE ACADEMIC SENATE

LASC Senate News

Important Dates & Reminders

Last Day for students to drop a class with a "W": Sun, Nov. 21 Thanksgiving: Thu, Nov 25-Sat, Nov 27
 Veteran's Day: Thu, Nov. 11;

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Next Senate Meeting:
The next Senate meeting will be held Tuesday, October 12 at 12:30 p.m. in SSEC 314 (the old Student Services building). Lunch is served at 12:30; the meeting starts at 1:00.

LASC Accreditation 2012: Soaring to Higher Standards

As you know, we are in the process of preparing an accreditation self study in preparation for our **Spring 2012 Accreditation Visit**. One of the primary tasks of completing the self study is responding to specific questions addressed throughout the four Accreditation Standards. As explained during the Fall Flex Day activity, this semester we are focusing on collecting data from various constituencies and sources on campus. The data and evidence that we are collecting must address each question, every standard and sub standard, and ultimately tell the story through evidence and documentation of how we have followed the multiple plans we put in place since our last Accreditation experience. **So we must ask ourselves: Are we doing what we said we were going to do? Are we striving towards the mission of our college? Do we have the data/evidence to prove it? If we don't have the data now, then what are we doing about it?**

Accreditation Standards committees and sub-committees have been established for each of the four standards. Some committees are large and some very small, however, they are all working and making progress. Yet, there is still a lot of work that needs to be done. October 15, 2010 marks the first deadline for the standard's committees to submit data and evidence in response to the questions on the 130+ worksheets that have been distributed campus wide. This is a very demanding task that must be accomplished in the midst of Program Review, SLO implementation and documentation, SPC, faculty & staff evaluations, IDPs. etc. This is why we need your help.

Everyone has a role to play in helping Los Angeles Southwest College complete a thorough and explicit Self Study Report that will leave minimal, if any, questionable loopholes and/or gaps for the visiting Accreditation team. You can help by doing any of the following:

- ◆ Join an accreditation standard committee and assist with finding answers, data and evidence to that support the various data collection questions.
- ◆ As a committee head, department chair, manager, faculty and/or staff member keep accurate records and files of meetings, minutes, agenda's, sign-in sheets, etc. from all meetings, student activities, faculty and staff dialogue sessions, etc.
- ◆ Provide data and evidence to members of various standards committee team members as needed. Answer the team's questions and be supportive in any way you can.
- ◆ Submit all data and evidence you collect electronically to the accreditation faculty chair, La Shawn Brinson – brinsoll@lasc.edu . (FYI – you can scan to email evidence electronically using the Xerox machines most of us have in our areas campus wide.)
- ◆ Complete IPRs, IDPs, NIPRs, SLOs, CTE reports, etc. according to the designated timelines.
- ◆ Continue to focus on Student Success.
- ◆ Share ideas and provide input that will help LASC Soar to Higher Standards.....

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Self Study process, please feel free to contact any of the standards committee chairs and/or your accreditation steering committee members.

Standard 1: Institutional Mission and Effectiveness – Co-chair, Sabrena Turner-Odom

Standard 2: Student learning Programs and Services – Co-chair, Dr. Angela Jenks

Standard 3: Resources – Co-chairs, James Hicks and Oscar Cobian

Standard 4: Leadership and Governance – Co-chairs, Dr. Allison Moore and Dr. Patrick Jefferson

La Shawn Brinson, Accreditation Faculty Co-Chair ext. 5023, brinsoll@lasc.edu.

Fast Breaking “SLO” News

By Glenn Yoshida, Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) Coordinator

Our Academic Senate approved 3 SLO-related motions on 9/14/10 that revised our SLO completion timeline so that at least 1 SLO for every course will have been assessed by end of Fall 2011. This fall semester, we will assess about 1/3 of our active courses. This coordinated effort will involve our faculty, department chairs, SLO Mentors (**Guadalupe Ramos** and **Kristine Wright**), our research analyst, and the SLO Coordinator. A SLO Addendum to the Course Outline of Record was also adopted and will be used to identify/modify course SLOs. A 6-semester SLO cycle was also adopted in which the results of assessment are systematically analyzed, improvement plans are implemented, and then reassessed.

On **October 14, 2010 (Thursday)**, teams consisting of all academic departments and student services staff will participate in program-level SLO training by the BRIC-TAP facilitators. Check the schedule to see the time/location of your group (http://www.lasc.edu/faculty_staff/slo/SLO_Committee_Membership.html). All participants will develop/refine their SLO assessment strategy using a BRIC-TAP Inquiry Guide on SLO assessment.

By assessing SLOs, we can get a handle on how well students are learning and how we might develop new approaches to improve teaching and learning. An example of planned improvements in a course based on results/analysis from SLO assessment is in Anthropology. Last semester, **Dr. Angela Jenks** assessed Anthropology 101 (Human Biological Evolution--3 lecture sections), embedding several questions in her final exams to address the SLO: “*Apply a biocultural framework to the understanding of human development and contemporary human life.*” One of the assessment results indicated that students were better able to remember and repeat factual information than explain its significance. She concluded that the course must focus more on developing critical thinking skills to meet the expected outcomes. Improvement plans include more in-class activities, homework, and practice assignments that ask students to apply information to specific situations. A laboratory component might be considered as well. These plans will be implemented for two semesters, followed by a reassessment to determine effectiveness. Details of her assessment results are available on the SLO website.

The LASC Planning Schematic

Student Learning Outcomes

What are the goals and objectives of the institution, program (s) or course (s)? - **The Plan**
Did we accomplish our goals and objectives for learning in the institution, the program or the course? - **The Assessment**



Course Outlines

Develop a roadmap to help students achieve the stated SLOs



Program Development

Using the SLOs and the Course Outlines, develop a program to help students achieve the stated goals



Program Review & Instructional Department Plans (IDPs)

Where is the program? - **The Assessment**
Where is the program going? - **The Plan**



College's Strategic Plan & ICOP

Based on the mission of the college, what do we want to accomplish in the future? - **The Plans**
Did we accomplish our short-term and mid-term goals? - **The Assessment of the Plans**



Accreditation

Did we do what we said we were going to do? Did we develop plans and then execute those plans?
Did we serve our students and our community effectively? **DO WE HAVE A PLAN?**

2010 Instructional Program Reviews

2010 Instructional Program Reviews are underway! **This program review process is designed to provide faculty with an opportunity to reflect on each program's effectiveness and to identify ways to improve program success.** The review process began last Spring when faculty focused on the identification of at least two SLOs for each instructional, degree, and certificate program.

The rest of the review will be completed this semester. Each program will examine trends in enrollment, student demographics and success, curriculum, and program resources. Based on these trends, the reviews will develop new objectives for 2011-2012 and request specific resources required to meet those objectives. The objectives developed in the program review process are an integral part of the college's strategic plan and directly inform annual Instructional Departmental Plans (IDPs) and ultimately resource allocation.

Reviews should be completed and signed by department chairs by Friday, October 15. Please contact Angela Jenks (jenksa@lasc.edu) with any questions or concerns.

Faculty Travel and Tuition Reimbursement money is still available. Please contact Kathi Cliff for additional information or assistance or visit the Academic Senate website for forms and instructions (http://www.lasc.edu/faculty_staff/academic_senate/travelexpenseforms.html).



**LOS ANGELES SOUTHWEST COLLEGE
ACADEMIC SENATE**

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Next Meeting:
October 12, 2010 at 12:30 in SSEC 314

**Check Us Out Online at www.lasc.edu
From the "For Faculty and Staff" page,
click on "Academic Senate"**

Join The Community:
Senate membership dues now due
See Joan Ann Mrava: x5332

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Dr. Dan Walden, *Dean, Academic Affairs*

The Academic Senate of Los Angeles Southwest College is the representative body for LASC faculty consisting primarily of elected representatives. As the official voice of the faculty in matters of campus-wide concern, LASC's Academic Senate provides the means for faculty to participate in the shared governance of the college. It strives to further the academic mission and integrity of the college as a community of scholars and professionals dedicated to providing an environment for quality learning. The Senate acts as a whole, or in committees and task forces, to address a wide range of academic, professional and administrative issues. These include the primary concerns of representing the faculty of LASC in all academic and professional matters, and seeking to support the mission, vision, and values of Los Angeles Southwest College.



Action Items Results from September Senate Meeting:

- The following action items were approved at the last Academic Senate Meeting
- a. Department Move Procedures
 - b. Approval System for Instructional Program Review
 - c. Revised SLO Timeline
 - d. SLO Addendum to Course Outline of Record

**Los Angeles Southwest College Receives \$3.3 Million For Two
TRIO Student Support Services Grants**

Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC) recently received two grants totaling \$3.3 million over five years from the U.S. Department of Education to implement TRIO Student Support Service grants (TRIO Scholars and TRIO STEM Scholars). These grants provide support and preparation for low-income, first-generation, and students with disabilities to graduate and transfer to a four-year institution.

TRIO Scholars (formerly the Center for Retention and Transfer) will provide intensive academic support services to 250 college students annually to ensure their persistence, academic success, graduation, and transfer to four-year institutions. Services include orientation programs, academic counseling, college success seminars, field trips to four-year institutions, and comprehensive tutorial support.

TRIO STEM Scholars will provide academic support to 120 college students annually to prepare them for careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Services include academic counseling, supplemental instruction, seminars regarding careers in science and technology, field trips to companies that focus on science and engineering, and summer

internships. This grant will be a collaborative effort between student services and academic affairs to increase retention, graduation, and transfer among students in math and science.

LASC will receive \$673,645 each year for five years for a total of \$ 3,368,225. "Receiving this grant means LASC can continue assisting underrepresented students to retain and persist in higher education," said Dr. Oscar Cobain, Dean of TRIO Programs. "We are also excited to be among the few community colleges nationally to receive the new TRIO STEM grant. This grant will open many opportunities for our students who are interested in the fields of science, mathematics, and technology." LASC has been continuously funded by the U.S. Department of Education since 1990. The TRIO STEM grant is a new addition to the campus.

The TRIO Programs were established in 1965 under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. Congress established the TRIO programs to help low-income Americans enter college, graduate, and move on to participate more fully in America's economic and social life.

For more information, contact Dr. Oscar Cobain (323) 241-5328.