

Minutes of the 9/24/08 Valley College Curriculum Committee

Members Present: S. Berger (Chair), M. Avila, P. Calder, B. Goldberg, G. Kovnat, R. LaCarra, D. Lubow, A. Martinez, M. Visco, Carole Yee

Members Absent: M. Arshagouni, S. Mayo, J. Miyasaki, R. Stein

Guests: M. Cox

Meeting called to order at: 1:10PM

- I. MSP (Calder/LaCarra) to approve the 9/10/2008 meeting minutes.
- II. New Action/Discussion Items
 1. MSP (Calder/Yee) Phys Ed 696 as a New Course with SLOs
 2. MSP (Avila/Calder) to notice the E-10 Revision for a vote at the next meeting. M. Cox attended and explained that the main difference between the revision and the existing E-10 regulation is in the area of admission/readmission, leave of absences from the program, and repeatability. Also, the district wanted the nursing chairs to be responsible for deciding who has passed background checks and can participate in clinical programs through Live Scan. The background check requirement is imposed by the hospitals and each hospital has its own process and timeframe in which the check needs to be completed. Also, putting the burden of deciding who passes or not is beyond the scope and expertise of their positions.
 3. Essential Academic Skills – The committee discussed the proposal for including a category of questions aimed at Essential Academic Skills in the course outline of record. The arguments were as follows:

PROS:

 - The literature supports this for our students.
 - We need to move along with new research and findings in our teaching.

CONS:

 - There are redundancies with the existing outline.
 - There is overlap with other activities we do on campus. We do these things in other venues (SLOs, best practices, etc.)
 - Calls into question the professionalism and integrity of faculty.
 - This lacks support for faculty in terms of training.
 - If it is in the course outline of record, then there is an implication we must teach these things even if they are not related to the content of the course.
 - Having to explain why a skill was no appropriate to the course was inconsistent with other questions in the outline that say “if applicable.....”
 - The list of what could be considered an essential academic skill is incomplete. Missig from the list are computational skills and computer competency.
 - Just writing in what people should do does not mean that it will be done.

Mission Statement: Los Angeles Valley College serves the community by providing transfer, degree, vocational, transitional, and continuing education programs in an attractive and accessible learning environment that fosters student success. Embedded in these programs are the greater goals of critical thinking and life-long learning which are necessary for success in the work place and for furthering one's education and personal development.

4. Course Descriptions and Program Information on the Web – refer to Academic Standards to draft policy on this.

III. Items from the Floor

Many departments are overdue with their outline updates as part of program review. However, these departments continue to submit curricular proposals for new courses, distance education, etc to the committee. There was a discussion if the committee should develop a policy to help put some teeth into the importance of updating outlines as well as program review. The committee was supportive of this idea and S. Berger and C. Yee will work together to draft policy language on the issue.

Adjourned: 2:10pm