



Outcomes Assessment Work Group

AGENDA

Friday, December 8, 2017

1:00pm – 2:30 pm

Founders Hall 111

View the agenda and attachments at:

http://www.mjc.edu/instruction/outcomesassessment/oawage_ndas_minutes.php

1. Proposed theme for spring 2018 SLOs: “Data-Dialog & Discovery”

Now that we have data collected for two years (excluding the current data collection for fall 2017), it’s perhaps time to engage in dialog about that data. With the help of the Office of Instruction, OAW could organize data-dialog days. Let’s take a few minutes in pairs to brainstorm the planning of this.

Let’s also take a “vote” on what we agree on.

2. Questions that may be pertinent to ask at this time in MJC’s SLO journey:

- What kind of data do we want to collect as teachers?

SLO assessment is an inquiry into the learning outcomes we want for our students, so if we can have a clear concrete picture of the type of data that we can apply in our teaching and in our learnings about the ways students learn, we can energize ourselves and our colleagues in moving toward that goal.

- What is truthful data? If decisions are to be made for institutional improvements on SLO data, then how do we define “truthful data” and ensure the truthfulness of data?
- We (as a school and not just OAW) could also take some time in spring 2018 to scrutinize the Institutional Learning Outcomes, and what do they mean to our students and to us?

Example: When speaking with an SLO expert at a conference last year, this question came up: Do the five core SLO values we have as an institution mean that we expect every student who passes with an MJC degree to be skilled in those areas? Is that our aim? In some colleges, they do mean that, so they create tests and rubrics that assess the school’s ILOs. This is just one approach.



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At our school, as we “map” SLOs, the final figure tells us how many of our students satisfied which SLO. This gives us a bird’s eye view of what’s happening with our students’ mastery of skills as declared by MJC, so this discussion may be an important one.

3) A logo for OAW?

They say an image is worth a thousand words—we know that story, and images can also be powerful conveyors of identity. When I began the coordinator’s journey in fall 2015, I realized when attending some committees that I had to explain what OAW was. Over the past couple of years, though the work of OAW has touched many parts of the school, many people still wonder what this group is—why does it exist—what does it do—is it a governance body or just a working group that comes and dissolves when the work is done?

In order to keep explanations short and to communicate the identity of this group a little better, I began to wonder if a logo might help, especially if this is unlike any other workgroup because it’s here to stay as SLOs are here to stay too.

How would you visualize a logo for OAW?

4) The role of Department Coordinators and Faculty Division Coordinators:

A. Explaining SLOs, “Assessment” and “Activity”:

SLOs: Known as Student Learning Outcomes, SLOs are essential skills faculty want to see in their students at the end of a course or a program or when achieving a degree.

Assessment: An inquiry or investigation into our students’ mastery of those skills expressed as SLOs.



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Activity: A specific test used to make that inquiry into students' mastery of the SLOs.

B. Second-Line of Support:

- Communication to represented areas regarding SLO information and Flex days or SLO days
- Represent OAW at division meetings just the way divisions are represented at OAW meetings
- Attend OAW meetings
- Advise the coordinator
- Help make recommendations to Senate

C. We need to make sure that all divisions at our school are represented, and if a division doesn't have representation, one of us members might need to take on that role for that division until a rep joins us.

5) Senate representation in OAW: Recommend to Senate to request the presence of one or two experienced senators at OAW meetings. They could be the "connectors" who can advise OAW via the Senate's lenses.

That it for now!

Happy Holidays and a Wonderful New Year to you all.