Notes from the March 9, “Assessment Friday – Institutional Learning Outcomes”
Meeting – SU 104, 12noon-1pm, Eureka Campus

Participants: Peter Blakemore (English)-Moderator, Cheryl Tucker (Student Services), Erik Kramer (Physics), Rachel Anderson (Dean, Transfer), Angelina Hill (IR), Roxanne Metz (Planning), Sean Herrera-Thomas (Associate Faculty), Dave Arnold (Math), Erin Wall (Math), Bruce Wagner (Math), Pam Kessler (English), Mark Renner (Del Norte Geology/CIS), Roberta Farrar (Health Occupations), Hillary Reed (Dental Assisting), Paul Kinsey (Construction Technology), Dan Calderwood (CIS), Barbara Jaffari (Business), Michael Dennis (Econ/Business), Danny Walker (Welding), Leslie Leach (Writing Center), Mark Winter (Psychology), Paul DeMark (Communications/Marketing), Sheila Hall (Asst Director EOPS), Mike Peterson (Manufacturing Tech), Bob Brown (Athletics), Joe Hash (Athletics Director), Dave Bazard (Geology)- Notes and co-moderator.

Peter Blakemore, Professor of English and Curriculum Committee Chair, provided an overview of Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs). This included an introduction to the MyCR Assessment page where ILO discussion forums and links to the ILOs of other community are posted. Peter discussed the similarity and difference between the plans in terms of the specific outcomes and the number of outcomes. He also pointed out the similarity of many of the ILOs and College of the Redwood’s GE outcomes.

This introduction was followed by a discussion focusing on the following questions:

- What are Institutional Outcomes?
- What should students exiting College of the Redwoods with a degree be able to do?
- Have we identified that yet?
- Do we already have Institutional Outcomes?
- How have other colleges answered this question?
- Why would we want to add to what we already have?
- Where do we go from here?

Several questions and themes emerged from the discussion

1. How can we link student services and other non-instructional program outcomes to the institutional learning outcomes if they are based on the instruction of GE? Cheryl Tucker (Director EOPS) felt that the student services outcomes could be linked to many of the ILOs presented (including ones similar to our GE outcomes).
2. What is the Hierarchy of outcomes? Course Outcomes, Program Outcomes, GE Outcomes, Institutional Outcomes? Where would non-instructional outcomes (e.g., student services) fit in the hierarchy. The need for a description and/or diagram showing the flow and hierarchy was suggested.
3. Perhaps we should look at models that are designed around student goals or other concrete, pragmatic, and measurable outcomes. A reference was made to College of the Canyons that centers one of their outcomes around students achieving their goals (transfer, degree, certificate, job skills, progress from developmental to college level, etc). Should one of our outcomes be similar?
4. Can (should) we use existing data sources to assess the outcomes? Can we use the GE assessments, exit surveys, and other existing measures to assess the outcomes? If these are valid measures, they would lessen the additional work load.
5. If we use the three main GE outcomes we should also add at least one other relating to Student Development, Success, and Personal Goals. Peter emphasized that we need to ensure that we are adding outcomes for a specific reason. What do we expect our students to be able to do?

6. Some of the specific bullets in our GE outcomes may not apply to some of the certificate areas. We will need to write the expectations of the Institutional Learning Outcomes in a manner that accommodates assessment of students who are not in degree programs.

7. The outcomes, assessment methods, and meaning of the results should be reviewed on a regular basis. We are bound to learn as we go.

The Next Step:
The participants and all of our colleagues are strongly encouraged to take the ideas of this initial discussion and engage in the MyCR Forum on ILOs. Directions for joining this discussion are listed below. The participants agreed that we needed to meet on a future Friday to determine the next step in creating and using Institutional Learning Outcomes. Details will be provided, but a tentative date is to have this next discussion on Friday, March 30. The proposed “exit survey” discussion will be moved to a later date.

The next Assessment Fridays:
- Friday March 23, 2012: Math, English, and Student Services (Advising, EOPS, DSPS, etc).
- Friday March 30, 2012 (depends on other “5th Friday” activities): ILO follow up discussion.
- Friday April 6, 2012: Data used for planning. Details need to be determined.

Instructions to join the Assessment Committee MyCR site.
Go to the MyCR page.
Select the "membership" link on the left-hand side of the home page in the "My Settings" area. Click on "My Sites" on the far right side. Then, click on "joinable sites" (tab just left of center). You may have to scroll down to see the "joinable sites" tab.
The "Assessment Committee" should appear here – click on "join" to have access to the site. In the site, find the “Forum” in the left hand column.
Joining the site does not commit anyone to actually being on the committee--it just gives access to all posted documents and comments.