INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCHER PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
2005-2008

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Cycle (SLOAC)

After attendance at Desert Region IX Outcomes Workshop on January 20–21, 2005, it has become readily apparent that our institution has much more to accomplish to insure that the entire Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Cycle (SLOAC) is in place and being utilized.

While our Curriculum Committee has done an excellent job in making sure course outlines have been rewritten to reflect Student Learning Outcomes, additional training will be needed to proceed with the SLOAC process. It is going to take considerable collaboration and collective effort to decide on norming of criteria, primary traits, and grading rubrics for the College.

The time table for this effort is:

Spring 2005–Make presentations to Academic Senate, Full Council/Strategic Planning Committee, and Board of Trustees explaining the Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Cycle, where we are and what must be done. Select key faculty members for training, Form a Student Assessment Learning Team with substantial faculty presence and select one or two courses and develop an SLO assessment model.

Summer 2005–Compile assessment data for these beta test SLOs.

Fall 2005–Report on the assessment data for the beta test courses and expand the Student Assessment Learning Team, and expand the beta test program to include at least one course from each of the divisions.

Spring 2006–Fall 2008 Insure revision of all course outlines to include grading rubrics and measurable assessment methods for SLO's as well as a comprehensive schedule for assessment integrated with the program review process.

Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Survey

During the Spring 2005 semester the Palo Verde College students, faculty, staff, administrators, and board members will be asked to participate in the Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI) survey and the Institutional Priorities Survey (IPS). The student section contains 113 multiple-choice questions and the faculty/staff section contains 89 questions, ten of which on each survey are specifically designed for Palo Verde College.

The Noel-Levitz comprehensive survey was last conducted in November 2000, and before that in 1995. Since the last survey in 2000, the new campus has become a reality and the distant education programs at the state prisons are now a significant percentage of our student body.

Data Base/Report Compilation

Numerous offices on campus maintain databases related to their individual functions providing specialized data related to their needs for specific information to support their daily operation and decision-making process. As the newly appointed Institutional Researcher, their will be an attempt in the coming months to compile a listing of all such data bases to enable easy access by the Office of Institutional Research into data which is already available somewhere on campus.

In addition, a calendar, both short term and long term, of recurring reports is needed for the Institutional Research Office to facilitate a quantification of the schedule and support needed to provide a full array of services to the College.

Jenzebar Training

Jenzabar Inc. is the supplier of the Jenzabar EX software for the MIS data system used by the college. This is a comprehensive modular MIS system, which began implementation at Palo Verde College about 3 years ago, and is now about 50 to 60% complete. (See Technology Plan for details.) It is not an easy system either to use or to obtain data from unless one is well-trained. The most knowledgeable user of this system is the College Registrar.

The newly appointed Institutional Researcher believes that training is essential for access to Jenzebar information and data to facilitate decision-making and planning among the various departments. Thus, during the coming months, basic training will be secured related to the software functions of Jenzebar EX, SQL Language as well as the InfoMaker function of this system.