**Academic Program Assessment April 18, 2018**

Colleagues, It has been a very full year as we worked to build enrollment and align our academic programs with the Strategic Directions. As we approach the end of this academic year it is time again to take stock of our progress in the areas of academic program assessment.

As noted below, one object of the HLC focused visit scheduled for next year is to evaluate our progress in completing the full cycle of program assessment: student learning outcomes, activities and findings related to achievement of those outcomes, and actions leading to continuous improvement of student learning.

For each degree program in your school please complete the following items:

1. Review course-level outcomes to ensure that they focus on student learning. Schools should complete this review by June 1, 2018. Each school will be provided a list of current course outcomes. In general, student learning outcomes should focus on demonstrable actions students undertake to show their achievement of the goals, less desirable are outcomes that are based on having the student ‘understand’ something or where the student ‘should be able.’
2. For each degree-program, identify a specific faculty member as the primary contact responsible for providing periodic updates on program assessment by May 8, 2018.
3. Verify that every program has clearly defined goals that are student-learning focused and that there is at least one defined activity/measure per goal. Identify specific goals or activities/measures which address how the program supports the Institutional Learning Outcomes. Each school will be provided the current Improve™ report for each degree program.
4. Document findings with evidence, and an appropriate action with budget where needed, for at least one program goal in every program by June 1, 2018.
5. By December 1, 2018, submit at least one additional finding/action for each degree program, including one finding related to Institutional Learning Outcomes

Assistance in developing program outcomes, activities/measures, and findings/actions will be provided by the Provost’s Office and the Faculty Center for Teaching. Schools are encouraged to review their learning outcomes to ensure full utilization of existing assessment evidence.

**Resources related to Program Assessment:** [**http://lssu.edu/assessment**](http://lssu.edu/assessment)

**2017 HLC Final Report (p.48):**

*“The institution must develop assessment methodologies and practices that include the following: All course outcomes must focus on student learning rather than on teaching or on programmatic goals. All academic programs must state not only program-level student learning outcomes, but also measures of those outcomes findings, and actions taken to engage on continued improvement of student learning“*

https://www.lssu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2017HLCFinalReport-LSSUAssurance.pdf