

Good evening.

In my July 9, 2013, Academic Senate BoT report, I outlined for the BoT one example of the process individual faculty go through in SLO Assessment. The MOU ratified by faculty in Spring 2013 is a continuation of that process, and will demonstrate to ACCJC how VVC Faculty – and by extension, the VVC Campus Community – are not only documenting evidence of institutional excellence, but also providing a sustainable plan for continued instructional improvement.

As the Academic Senate's purview is academic and professional matters, including accreditation, we can think of no better way to show ACCJC the tremendous progress faculty have made than by the inclusion of mandatory SLO Assessment, which is what ACCJC wants to see.

But this MOU does more than demonstrate sustainable planning and teacher accountability: it also sets up a 'chain of command' if you will, from the individual faculty member's responsibility, to discipline facilitators, to department chairs, to VVC administration. The MOU provides a clear path, and there is no ambiguity in who does what.

Academically and professionally, the MOU also provides the opportunity for mentorship by discipline facilitators, department chairs, and individual faculty, via training and workshops. We would estimate that – with the exception of new VVC faculty – all current teachers (including our valued adjunct faculty) will be well versed in every aspect of the process. Again, this is what ACCJC wants to see. When new faculty come into our campus community, the structure is now in place to mentor these faculty and assist them in completing the required accreditation documentation to insure VVC will continue to provide the excellent education we currently do.

As BPs and APs are designed to provide BoT members and administration with clear paths and processes for institutional excellence and sustainability, the MOU does the same for faculty. ACCJC should be pleased that we have not only outlined a clear and continuous process, but also have come to this process via collegial consultation.