

MOM's Role in the Creation of SJSU ULGs.

At the Kickoff Gathering for Preparing for our next WASC visit held in March 2012, Prof. Kathleen Roe identified and outlined 4 Task Force focus areas needing volunteers to contribute and help us achieve our shared goals. She invited all attending to self-select and then set the groups to their tasks. The fourth group's focus was to advance our progress in areas related to the Meaning, Quality, and Rigor of the Degree.

This "Mission, Outcomes, and Meaning of the Degree" Task Force was chaired by Prof. Scot Guenter after conversation with Associate Vice-President Dennis Jaehne. Already, at the Kickoff Gathering, explaining the project, the acronym "MOM" had been used playfully by Jaehne, which set a nice tone from the start, and the group by consensus at its first meeting adopted the name "the MOM group." 13 different stakeholders attended the initial meeting. Only two dropped out after the first meeting (due to other work requirements)—the rest gave strong, reliable, and ongoing commitment until the charge was completed.

Composition of MOM happened by chance but such diversity and experience as were present in the room turned out to be a great boon. Range of representation extended across colleges and other areas of the University, including the Library, Student Services, and Extended Studies. There was also range across ranks and other useful categories (such as campus governance, assessment experience, one current and one future Outstanding Prof Award winner, etc.).

Creating their own Learning Community, for the rest of the semester MOM met weekly for a working session with a light meal, usually in the Boardroom of the Library. This venue offered smart room technology, a sense of formal furniture, and quality space, yet brought all together in what was perceived as a "neutral" location. First MOM reviewed SJSU's history with SLOs (which runs backwards, mapping upward at this point) first in GE, then in major programs, and then starting on discussing ULOS (the targets were called University Learning Objectives at this time). MOM studied the Lumina DQP and reviewed together seminal earlier documents at SJSU re shared mission and goals: Mission Statement, Educated Person Dialogue and University Scholar Rubric, Vision for 2017.

MOM members next spent some weeks in open discussion of what they liked/didn't like in each document, and forged "community" in the process. It was Chair Guenter's perception, more so than most committees, that group members here made conscious shifts to consider what was good for the whole university and not just advocate for what pleases a particular discipline or unit currently. MOM arrived at consensus to use a modified version of Lumina's DQP categories, informed by a blend of themes recurring or present in other sources.

By the end of Spring 2012 MOM had outlined and named 5 general categories for shared ULOs and spent some time and care creating a document to send to the Academic Senate to get their approval of those categories. Those five categories of ULOs: Specialized Knowledge, Broad Integrative Knowledge, Intellectual Skills, Applied Learning, Societal and Global Responsibilities. The Senate approved this list at

the end of the semester—but mention of connection to “assessment” raised demands that no new work for overburdened faculty should be generated by subsequent steps.

Accordingly, in the Fall semester of 2012 MOM reconvened with a new goal: Create the wording for ULOs within those 5 approved categories to send to the Senate and prepare to serve as aides to the Senate in getting campus buy-in on the way to and after their approval. At this time MOM welcomed the Director of Assessment to meetings to share what she had been working on separately regarding ULOs, and to review more sample ULOs from other institutions.

Based on areas of expertise and interests expressed earlier in Spring 2012, MOM then divided into 5 different teams, each team charged with coming up with appropriate ULO or ULOs for their area, including bullet points as needed. All of these were consolidated, reviewed by a committee of the whole, then forged into a final list of Six SJSU ULOs, before turning this draft over to C & R to take to the Senate. While C & R sent a draft around to the Council of Chairs and Deans for feedback, MOM took it to the WASC Steering Committee to present, collectively, for their feedback. The Steering Committee deliberated and gave a unanimous declaration of support for the ULOs, and as the open suggestion for modifications process continued, the ULOs were converted to ULGs, University Learning Goals, as they were determined to be aspirational, and there was consensus that their future assessment and analysis was to be done through mapping as appropriate onto PLOs and SLOs in the major degree programs, general education, student affairs, and other relevant areas. Another important modification at this step in the process was agreement to expand the ULGs to cover both undergraduate and graduate degree programs. At this point, the “lateral pass” to C & R from MOM had been completed, and the ULGs, having gone through a series of open vettings and transparent discussions, were approved by the Senate and signed into campus policy by the President.

MOM Committee Roster

Prof. Dennis Jaehne, Associate Vice-President of Undergraduate Studies

Prof. Scot Guenter, College of Humanities and the Arts

Prof. Thalia Anagnos, College of Engineering

Prof. Winifred Schultz-Krohn, College of Applied Sciences and Art

Prof. Shannon Bros, College of Science

Prof. Mark Van Selst, College of Social Science

Prof. Ravisha Mathur, College of Education

Prof. Steve Zlotolow, College of International and Extended Studies

Chair Beth Von Till, President of the Academic Senate

Mr. John Wenzler, SJSU Library

Mr. Richard Kelley, Student Affairs