

**College of Micronesia – FSM
Minutes Reporting Form**

Meeting Group:	iSLOs working group
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Date: 02 October 19	Time: 13:00	Location: Zoom on line meeting
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Members Present:				
Titles	Name	Present	Absent	Remarks
Chair	Phyllis Silbanuz	X		
Secretary	Dana Lee ling	X		
Chuuk Campus	Danilo Mamangon	X		
CTEC	Jean Ranahan	X		
National campus	Maria Dison	X		

Additional Attendees:	None
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Agenda

1. Decide:
 - a. Chair
 - b. Secretary
2. Plan how to proceed.

Major Topics of Discussion

1. Institutional Learning Outcomes working group organization

Discussion as to who will chair the working group. Phyllis Silbanuz was nominated. Ms. Silbanuz accepted the chair position. Dana Lee Ling was selected as secretary.

2. Planning on how to proceed and discussion of the scope of work ahead

Discussion began with a reminder of the guiding philosophy of the institution. The college has vision statement, "*We provide quality education today for a successful tomorrow.*" Is that statement sufficient for guiding the committee's work on the iSLOs?

While the philosophy statement might not be sufficiently detailed, the college is also guided by the mission statement and the core values.

The College of Micronesia-FSM is a learner-centered institution of higher education that is committed to the success of the Federated

States of Micronesia by providing academic and career & technical educational programs characterized by continuous improvement and best practices.

Core values: Commitment, excellence, learner-centeredness, professionalism, teamwork (see Strategic Plan 2018-2023, reference number four below)

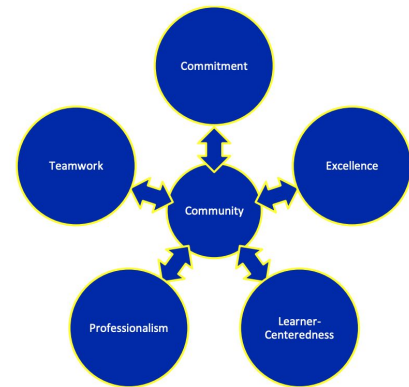
Strategic directions

I. Innovate academic quality to ensure student success

Ensure student success by decreasing time to completion and increasing student satisfaction, persistence, retention, and graduation rates by innovating academic quality and enhancing student support services.

II. Strengthen resources to meet current and future needs

Strengthen resources to meet current and future needs through revenue diversification, efficient use, innovation, effective allocation, conservation, infrastructure upgrades, and investment in human capital.



A member agreed to work on a philosophy statement to guide the work of the working group as well as to provide the college with a philosophy statement.

During the discussion a member noted that the iSLOs should guide all departments: instructional, student services, and administration. The iSLOs should guide all units systemwide. The general education program learning outcomes, however, guide only the instructional programs. Thus while the iSLOs and the general education program learning outcomes may be similar, they will not be identical. General education is only included in the instructional programs. The institutional learning outcomes should address the whole institution. All areas. The iSLOs will drive the system, not the general education outcomes driving the iSLOs.

As a result of the above discussion there was a realization that there is a need for more members from the non-instructional side of the house. The working group at present consists only of instructional faculty and the Dean of Academic Programs.

The working group then considered the nature of the scope of work. Is the working group to look only at the iSLOs or is the working group also to make recommendations on the general education program learning outcomes? The charge to the working group was to look at the iSLOs and make recommendations.

A member proposed a survey on the existing iSLOs of faculty, staff, and students. Another member asked what the goal would be of such a survey, noting that perhaps many would not be familiar with the institutional learning outcomes.

Noting that iSLOs are assessed separately from the general education program learning outcomes, the implication is that these will be different. And the inclusion of the other departments under the institutional learning outcomes, student services and administration,

essentially assures that the institutional learning outcomes will not be the same as the general education program learning outcomes. For both sets of learning outcomes, the instructional department has assessment responsibility. Instructional affairs assesses both iSLOs and general education program learning outcomes. That has been the practice. iSLOs assessment has not been done by the entire college system, all units. That said, all departments should be involved with assessing the iSLOs. This raised the question as to which institutional learning outcome these units are currently claiming to serve.¹

In connection with the above discussion, one member cited the institutional student learning outcome "Foundations and skills for life-long learning: Purposeful learning activity, undertaken on an ongoing basis with the aim of improving knowledge, skills, and competence." Another member noted that Dr. Richard Winn, current president of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior College has concerns over these "lifelong learning" institutional outcomes.² How to measure an outcome that is exhibited only over the course of a lifetime? The intention of the lifelong learning outcome is for the college to provide students with the skills to be lifelong learners. The wording may be problematic. Perhaps the focus should be on the skills rather than whether the student engages in learning for the rest of their life.

There may be a way to combine some of the institutional learning outcomes. Writing, reading, and speaking skills might be subsumed under a communications learning outcome.

If the iSLOs serve the whole institution, then which current iSLOs does student services serve? The working group secretary offered to try to combine current iSLOs while looking for a way to include non-academic services.

The suggestion was made to email students services leads (vice presidents, directors) on how they serve the iSLOs, or if they currently serve the iSLOs, and if they do, which iSLOs.

Jean Ranahan is working on a philosophy statement.

Dana Lee ling is working on the iSLOs: combining those that might be combined to reduce the number, resolving the issue of general education learning outcomes that do not serve an iSLO, and looking at serving other areas of the college.

Others are to look at iSLOs and see how student services can be brought into the institutional learning outcomes.

Have documents prepared by 30 October.

The Director of IT asked for the secretary to request an email alias and make that request in the minutes.

¹ This references the shift under the learning paradigm, "With the shift to the Learning Paradigm comes a change in roles for virtually all college employees." From Teaching to Learning - A New Paradigm for Undergraduate Education Barr, Robert B.; Tagg, John. 1995. The article called for a shift to understanding that all employees serve a learning function. Thus all units must be serving an institutional learning outcome.
<https://www.colorado.edu/ftcp/sites/default/files/attached-files/barrandtaggfromteachingtolearning.pdf>

² "I've seen many schools in my work with WASC that have put in their catalog 'We will produce lifelong learners,' and I've found that in most cases they haven't a clue what that means." 2015 Keynote Speaker - Dr. Richard Winn
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4s3w5FWejzE>

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Comments/Upcoming Meeting Date & Time/Etc.:
06 November 2019 at 1:00 P.M. via Zoom

Handouts/Documents Referenced:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Strategic Planning Working Group Vision Statement Report http://www.comfsm.fm/bor/notebook/05-17/10a_SPWG_Vision_Report_15MAR2017.pdf2. Proposed working alignment grid for iSLOs and gen ed SLOs document format https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GcXMhfrvagGgUluYgVObRjafEABXoxDJIssjG9qFOCG/edit?usp=sharing3. iSLOs elsewhere https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1o_w_Oqwl62isA2-Pd3pFBt3gdPUaUQ2FQTfpsJyOdQM/edit?usp=sharing4. Strategic Plan 2018-2023 http://www.comfsm.fm/strategic-plan/2018/COM_FSM_Strategic_Plan_2018_2023-1.pdf

College Website Link:
1. TBD

Prepared by:	Dana Lee Ling	Date Distributed:	02 October 2019
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Approval of Minutes Process & Responses:
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Summary Decisions/Recommendations/Action Steps/Motions with Timeline & Responsibilities:

- Information Technology division is requested to provide an email alias for the working group and a location in the Wiki for the minutes of the meetings.

Action by President:				
Item #	Approved	Disapproved	Approved with conditions	Comments