HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY
University Senate

Resolution on Humboldt State University Institutional Learning Outcomes

06-18/19-ICC – January 29, 2019 – Second Reading

RESOLVED: That the University Senate of Humboldt State University recommends to the President that the attached revisions to the HSU Institutional Learning Outcomes be adopted; and be it further.

RESOLVED: that these Institutional Learning Outcomes be revisited and reevaluated by the Integrated Curriculum Committee in AY 2021-22; and be it further

RESOLVED: that a report of the ICC’s analysis be brought forward to the University Senate in AY 2021-22.

RATIONALE: According to the CSU’s Program Planning Resource Guide: Academic Programs and Faculty Development (2017), each CSU must have institutional learning outcomes (ILOs) that “highlight the general knowledge, skills, and dispositions all students are expected to have upon graduating from an institution of higher learning,” that represent “the collective expression of the learning environment the university offers.” Such learning outcomes must be thoroughly and methodically developed across the university’s curriculum. Institutions are expected to identify specific behaviors that demonstrate the outcomes, and they are expected to regularly evaluate these behaviors in order to assess student learning.

According to the standards presented in the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) 2013 Handbook of Accreditation, WSCUC institutions shall “ensure the development of core competencies including, but not limited to, written and oral communication, quantitative reasoning, information literacy, and critical thinking.” In addition, “the institution’s student learning outcomes and standards of performance [shall be] clearly stated at the course, program, and, as appropriate, institutional level.”

The WSCUC team’s report for reaffirmation of HSU’s accreditation, March 2018, noted that “there is a lack of integration and alignment of program-level outcomes to university-level outcomes.”

Adoption of these revised, assessable ILOs is a necessary first step for the development of the university’s institutional assessment plan, which will ultimately include all five of the core competencies required by WSCUC and will formally align and integrate course- and program-level learning outcomes with the outcomes we expect to see in every graduating HSU student.