BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED 5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD MERCED, CA 95343 (209) 228-4629

December 4, 2013

To: Ignacio López-Calvo, Chair, Academic Senate

From: Laura Martin, Accreditation Liaison Officer & Coordinator for Institutional Assessment Elizabeth Whitt, Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education

Re: New WASC Core Competency Expectation

As you know, WASC's recent redesign of the reaccreditation process changed both the substance of the review and the review process itself. Among several new accreditation expectations is that institutions must ensure the development of the following "five core competencies" in all baccalaureate programs:

- Written communication
- Oral communication
- Quantitative reasoning
- Information literacy
- Critical thinking

A summary of these efforts will be provided in the institution's self-study for reaccreditation through an essay that

- 1. describes how the undergraduate curriculum addresses each of the five core competencies,
- 2. explains its learning outcomes in relation to those core competencies, and
- 3. demonstrates, through *evidence of student performance*, the extent to which those outcomes are achieved *at or near the time of graduation*.<sup>1</sup>

WASC has put in place a schedule for phasing in this requirement, and UC Merced is in the first set of institutions to meet these expectations for all five competencies. Therefore, by spring 2017, the time of UC Merced's Off-Site Review for reaccreditation, WASC expects UC Merced to have assessed four of the five competencies. By the time of our Accreditation Visit in spring 2018, all five competencies will have been assessed.

Appended to this memo for the Senate's review, comment, and support is a proposal for meeting this new expectation. As described in more detail in Section IV of the appended document, we propose to integrate this work as seamlessly as possible into the ongoing annual assessment activities of the undergraduate majors, thereby taking maximum advantage of the work faculty are already doing and avoiding any duplication of effort in campus assessment activities. Indeed, as the following table suggests, many majors are already addressing the competencies in their learning outcomes and as part of annual program assessment activities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For additional descriptions of this new expectation, please see *Educational Quality: Student Learning, Core Competencies and Standards of Performance at Graduation* on p. 30 of the <u>2013 Handbook of Accreditation</u>.

#### Table 1: Assessment of competencies by majors.

Competency	% of majors* that have assessed the competency to some extent** within last 4 years	% of majors that <u>explicitly name</u> the competency in the language of a PLO	% of majors with PLOs that could be interpreted to address the competency together with majors that explicitly name the competency in the PLO***
Oral Communication	29%	47%	82%
Written Communication	76%	59%	94%
Quantitative Reasoning	47%	12%	88%
Information Literacy	29%	0%	41%
Critical Thinking	76%	6%	100%

\* Of the 17 majors submitting PLO Reports in last four years.

\*\* According to rubric criteria.

\*\*\* Based on inclusive interpretation of PLO.

In developing this proposal, we considered several possible models, but in the end concluded that the proposed approach is the simplest and most sustainable because it integrates the new expectations into existing assessment efforts. We would be happy meet with Undergraduate Council, Divisional Council or any other interested Senate committees to discuss our thinking and to answer any questions.

Given the timeline established by the WASC Commission, we will need to begin our efforts to address the core competency requirement this coming spring semester, and so ask that the Senate provide comments by the end of January.

We look forward to the Senate's thoughts. Thank you for your help.

Encl(1)

CC: Tom Peterson, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Susan Sims, Chief of Staff, Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

#### Addressing the WASC Core Competency Requirement

*Laura Martin, UCM ALO & Coordinator for Institutional Assessment Elizabeth Whitt, Vice Provost & Dean for Undergraduate Education* 

#### I. Background: The New WASC Core Competency Requirement

WASC's recent redesign of the reaccreditation process changed both the substance of the review and the review process itself. One new expectation is that institutions must ensure the development of the following "five core competencies" in all baccalaureate programs.

- Written communication
- Oral communication
- Quantitative reasoning
- Information literacy
- Critical thinking

As part of the institutional review process for reaccreditation, the institution must provide an essay that

- 1. describes how the undergraduate curriculum addresses each of the five core competencies,
- 2. explains its learning outcomes in relation to those core competencies, and
- 3. demonstrates, through *evidence of student performance*, the extent to which those outcomes are achieved *at or near the time of graduation*.

For additional descriptions of this new expectation, please see *Educational Quality: Student Learning, Core Competencies and Standards of Performance at Graduation* on p. 30 of the <u>2013 Handbook of</u> <u>Accreditation</u>.

### II. Timeline

By spring 2017, the time of UC Merced's Off-Site Review for reaccreditation, UC Merced will need to have assessed four of the five competencies. By the time of our Accreditation Visit in spring 2018, we will need to have assessed all five competencies.

#### III. Further Detail

#### What do we need to do?

The core competency requirement applies to all undergraduates regardless of their major. Faculty expectations for student achievement at or near the time of graduation, however, may differ among students in keeping with their majors.

To meet WASC's expectations, very generally we will need to

- 1. Establish expectations<sup>1</sup> for aggregate student performance at or near the time of graduation for each of these five competencies.
- 2. Ensure the curricula support development and achievement of these expectations.
- 3. Identify *sustainable* methods for assessing student achievement of each competency; we expect that this will be an ongoing accreditation expectation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> i.e. *criteria* the specific skills or abilities to be demonstrated that describe the key abilities that comprise each competency, and related standards (levels) of performance.

- 4. Assess student performance in relation to each competency at least one time before the 2018 reaccreditation site visit, consistent with the timeline above.
- 5. Ensure that actions are taken to improve student achievement, as warranted by the evidence.

It's important to note that we can approach this work in a manner that builds on existing practices. Below, we suggest this work be integrated into existing program-level assessment activities.

### IV. Proposed Strategy to Address the Competency Expectation

#### **Guiding Principles**

Any strategy to define and assess the WASC Five Core Competencies must

- 1. be supported and implemented by the faculty, with appropriate administrative support, consistent with the faculty's ownership of curriculum.
- 2. acknowledge that the competencies outline a core set of abilities that are essential to, but not sufficient for, the high quality, intellectual work expected of a bachelor's degree graduate from the University of California.
- 3. recognize that although there may be broad agreement on the general attributes of these competencies<sup>2</sup>, their expression is likely to differ by discipline in keeping with field-specific intellectual conventions.
- 4. add value to faculty goals for student learning.
- 5. generate actionable insights into student learning at institutional level(s) (e.g., program, school, campus) at which responsive action will have meaning and impact.
- 6. use and build on existing assessment support and activities, so as to be sustainable.
- 7. evaluate student learning in relation to the competencies in keeping with the accreditation timeline established above.

These principles underpin the strategy we propose for addressing the competencies.

#### Proposed Approach: Assessment in the Majors

There appear to be two complementary institutional avenues to support both development and assessment of these competencies – the majors and general education. For several reasons, the majors seem to be a more practical route for assessing the competencies.

First, annual assessments are conducted for each major at UC Merced, whereas we are only in the beginning stages of developing an assessment plan for general education. The latter is anticipated to take some time to develop, and is unlikely to proceed at a pace sufficient to generate evidence in keeping with the timeline outlined above. Second, the existing school-based, distributed model for general education does not seem easily amenable to systematic, representative assessment of the competencies *at or near graduation*. Third, evidence suggests that the competencies are already being assessed in some way as part of annual program assessment activities (or could be easily; Table 1). Finally, assessment results are more likely to be used and have impact on student learning if student achievement is evaluated within the major, rather than at a broader institutional level.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> As represented, for example, in the <u>AAC&U's VALUE Rubrics</u> associated with these skills.

Competency	% of majors* that have assessed the competency to some extent** within last 4 years	% of majors that <u>explicitly name</u> the competency in the language of a PLO	% of majors with PLOs that could be interpreted to address the competency together with majors that explicitly name the competency in the PLO***
Oral Communication	29%	47%	82%
Written Communication	76%	59%	94%
Quantitative Reasoning	47%	12%	88%
Information Literacy	29%	0%	41%
Critical Thinking	76%	6%	100%

#### Table 1: Assessment of competencies by majors.

\* Of the 17 majors submitting PLO Reports in last four years; recognizing that most programs have only assessed a subset of their PLOs (mode = 3 PLOs assessed typically of 5 PLOs).

\*\* According to rubric criteria.

\*\*\* Based on inclusive interpretation of PLO.

#### Proposed Strategy and Timeline for Implementation within the Majors

For the reasons outlined above, we propose that assessment of the competencies be integrated into each program's ongoing program learning outcome assessment activities. The underlying assumption is that, with support, most programs will be able to integrate assessment of each competency into the assessment of existing PLOs in some way.<sup>3</sup> In other words, student achievement of the competencies would be assessed as part of the work of assessing a PLO, with results used to inform program curriculum and pedagogy as usual.

With this approach, programs would not necessarily have to change the schedule for the review of PLOs, but rather would be sure to flag and report PLO-related findings and actions that address one or more competencies. Criteria defining each competency could also be developed to address discipline specific intellectual conventions, consistent with the understanding that the competencies are skills that are engaged in discipline-specific ways.

To pursue this plan, we propose the following timeline of activities (see appended table for additional details):

### <u>AY2013-2014</u>

*Products*: By the conclusion of this academic year, FAOs for each *major*<sup>4</sup>, with the support of the school assessment specialist, will have completed the following:

 Submitted a brief assessment plan addressing all five competencies<sup>5</sup>. In addition to providing a road map for assessing the competencies, these plans will form the foundation of the institutional essay we must include in our next accreditation report that describes how the undergraduate curriculum addresses each of the five core competencies as well as the relationship of our learning outcomes to the core competencies. (See Section 1, bullets 1 and 2.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> An exception may be quantitative reasoning in humanities majors. This could be the focus of a separate working group of humanities faculty.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Majors only, not standalone minors.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Again, an exception may be quantitative reasoning in humanities majors, which may need special consideration.

### DRAFT 11.20.2013

2. Reviewed and identified existing program rubrics or other descriptions of criteria and or/standards that they feel reflect expectations related to one or more competencies.

Activities: To develop the brief assessment plan (bullet 1 immediately above), a program would need to

- a. align the competencies to existing PLOs to identify which competencies are already addressed or could easily be addressed under the umbrella of an existing PLO.
- b. identify at least one substantive source of direct evidence<sup>6</sup> for each competency to be collected at or near graduation, recognizing that a rich source of evidence could support more than one PLO and competency. For example, a program might assess critical thinking, information literacy, and written communication through a single significant assignment such as a research paper completed at or near graduation. The evidence should be collected through one or more required courses to ensure that the findings are representative of all students in the major.
- c. identify how student work will be archived for future use, with archiving initiated in AY2014-15.
- d. identify the year each competency (and corresponding PLO) will be assessed, with the expectation that all five competencies must be assessed by spring 2018 for programs with a March PLO Report date (with four of the five completed by spring 2017), and fall 2018 for programs with an October PLO Report date (with four of the five completed by fall 2017).

*Institutional Input:* By the start of spring semester, a working group of assessment staff and interested faculty will identify some basic definitions of each competency, examples of useful sources of evidence, and one or more mechanisms to store student work.

### <u>Summer 2014</u>

• Building on collected in spring 2014 and other institutional resources, the working group further refines institutional definitions of each of the five competencies to provide programs with basic guidelines for assessing each competency for adoption and adaptation within the majors. Draft materials for three of the competencies developed by conclusion of summer.

### <u>AY2014-15</u>

- Programs begin archiving student work in support of assessing PLOs and the related competencies.
- Programs begin assessing competencies as per assessment plan.

### <u>AY 2015-16 – AY 2017-2018</u>

• Programs assess PLOs and competencies, completing all five by spring 2018 for programs with a March PLO Report date, and fall 2018 for programs with an October PLO Report date.

Other considerations: Links to Undergraduate Writing Task Force.

### V. Draft Detailed Time Table for Competency Assessment

The proposed process takes a sampling approach to meeting WASC's expectations to have assessed four of the five competencies by the spring 2017 Off-Site Review and all five by the spring 2018 Accreditation Visit.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Ex. a major research paper, lab report, presentation, design project, etc.

#### DRAFT 11.20.2013

If implemented as proposed,

- by the Off-Site Review in spring 2017, ~ 50% of the majors would have assessed four of the five competencies, with 50% having assessed three.<sup>7</sup>
- by the Accreditation Visit in spring 2018, ~50% of the majors would have assessed all five competencies, with 50% having assessed four.

As outlined in the table below (shaded cells), this schedule would ask programs with March 1 annual reporting dates to assess and report results for four competencies within the next three annual reporting periods, starting with spring 2015 (i.e. spring 2015, 2016, and 2017). Programs with October 1 reporting dates would be asked to assess and report results for four competencies within their next three annual reporting periods (i.e. fall 2015, 2016, and 2017).

AY		,	Work Plan	Who?
Fall	Spring	Summer	WORK Plan	WHO!
2013			<ul><li>Plan for addressing competencies approved.</li><li>Basic definitions of competencies in development.</li></ul>	Senate approves approach.
	2014		<ul> <li>Basic definitions developed by mid- February to support assessment plan development by conclusion of spring.</li> <li>Program assessment plans developed by conclusion of semester.</li> <li>One competency, ex. oral communication<sup>8</sup>, elaborated to support assessment beginning in fall 2014.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Small working group of staff and faculty led by VPDUE and CoIA to work on competency definition.</li> <li>FAOs and Assessment Staff develop assessment plans</li> </ul>
		2014	Working with materials submitted in spring, staff drafts basic definitions and guidelines for another two competencies for review in fall (1 per month).	Staff
2014			<ul> <li>Complete elaboration of final two competencies by October for review by conclusion of fall. (1 per month)</li> <li>By conclusion of fall semester, basic definitions and guidelines developed for all five competencies so that programs can begin adopting and adapting materials to program specific purposes.</li> </ul>	Basic definitions and elaboration of one competency, small working group of staff and faculty led by VPDUE?
	2015		Programs with March 1 reporting dates: First report of competency assessment data based on assessment conducted in fall 2014. (~50% of majors)	
2015			Programs with Oct 1 reporting dates: First report of competency assessment data based on assessment conducted in spring/summer 2015. (~50% of majors)	
	2016		Programs with March 1 reporting dates: Second report of competency assessment data. (~50% of majors)	
2016			<ul> <li>Programs with Oct 1 reporting dates: Second report of competency assessment data. (~50% of majors)</li> </ul>	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Currently, there are 20 undergraduate majors, eight of which are scheduled to submit reports on October 1<sup>st</sup> annually, the remainder submit annual reports on March 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Suggested, because will want to assess this as students give presentations, to avoid having to archive work.

AY			Work Plan	Who?
Fall	Spring	Summer	WOIK Flatt	VV10!
			<ul> <li>UCM Accreditation Report due, includes description of process and progress assessing competencies, existing conclusions.</li> </ul>	
	2017		<ul> <li>Programs with March 1 reporting dates: Third report of competency assessment data. (~50% of majors)</li> <li>By this report, these programs will have assessed and reported on four of five competencies.</li> <li>Off-Site Accreditation Review: Prior to or as part of Off-Site Review Teleconference, provide update on competency progress, including additional findings, actions etc.</li> </ul>	
2017			<ul> <li>Programs with Oct 1 reporting dates: Third report of competency assessment data.</li> <li>By this report, these programs will have assessed and reported on four of five competencies. (~50% of majors)</li> </ul>	
	2018		<ul> <li>Programs with March 1 reporting dates: Fourth report of competency assessment data. (~50% of majors)</li> <li>By this report, these programs will have assessed and reported on all five competencies.</li> <li>Accreditation Visit: Provide update and additional evidence of all five competencies for majors with March 1 report due date, and for four of the competencies for majors with Oct 1 due dates.</li> </ul>	
2018			<ul> <li>Programs with Oct 1 reporting dates: Fourth report of competency assessment data based on assessment conducted in spring/summer 2018.</li> <li>By this report, these programs will have assessed and reported on all five competencies.</li> </ul>	
Continu	ie compet	ency assess	ment as part of routine PLO assessment activities.	

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE IGNACIO LÓPEZ-CALVO, CHAIR senatechair@ucmerced.edu UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED 5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD MERCED, CA 95343 (209) 228-7954; fax (209) 228-7955

February 4, 2014

# Laura Martin, Accreditation Liaison Officer & Coordinator of Institutional Assessment Elizabeth Whitt, Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education

## **RE: Request to Review New WASC Core Competency Expectation**

Thank you for the opportunity to opine on the issue of WASC core competency expectations. The Senate Division Council, Standing Committees and School Executive Committees provided the following comments:

The Undergraduate Council (UGC) discussed the new WASC core competency requirement (please see appended memo from UGC) and stated the assessment of the core competencies is envisioned to occur through the assessment of PLOs, which is natural. There are, however, core competency components which do not overlap with existing PLOs. For example, Information Literacy is not specifically represented in any PLO for any program; hence it is unclear what mechanism will drive the result of its being assessed by 50 to 100% of the programs in time to satisfy WASC. It is evident that either the scope of existing assessment procedures will have to be expanded to cover all the specified core competency components, or additional assessment efforts will be required. We recommend clarifying and planning this specific aspect of the proposal far more directly than the current document does.

Presumably academic programs are expected to conduct the assessment of PLOs and Core Competencies synchronously, but this expectation should be clearly outlined in the proposal.

Additionally, faculty raised concerns about the impact on faculty time, resources, and any additional undefined bureaucratic expectations that the proposal might entail and how they might stifle the mission of the University. The authors of the proposal recognize that faculty are responsible for a considerable amount of assessment work. Nevertheless, UGC appreciates that the strategy outlined in this proposal was designed to perturb existing assessment habits the least, and still satisfy WASC requirements.

Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom (FWDAF) provided no comments on the specific provisions however, the committee wished to convey its grave concerns over the larger issue of WASC's impact on faculty control of the curriculum (please see appended memo from FWDAF).

FWDAF believes these measures demonstrably push faculty to routinize and standardize curriculum into the "one-size-fits-all" model that No Child Left Behind foisted on K-12. The measures also have resulted in a large drain on faculty time and inflating assessment bureaucracy on campus that consumes resources that could be better used for actual teaching or research. Faculty are deeply committed to undergraduate teaching and if FWDAF believed the documents pointed the way to better educating our students, they would be willing to invest the time and resources. However, FWDAF believes the opposite is true and that the culture of assessment is actually about the continued corporatization of public education and the diminishing of faculty control over the curriculum.

We thank you for the opportunity to opine.

Sincerely,

Aqueis bipur Celes

Ignacio López-Calvo, Chair Division Council

CC: Division Council Thomas W. Peterson, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Susan Sims, Special Assistant to the Provost/EVC and Chief of Staff Standing Committees Senate Office

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

ACADEMIC SENATE, MERCED DIVISION UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL (UGC) JAY SHARPING, CHAIR jsharping@ucmerced.edu UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED 5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD MERCED, CA 95344 (209) 228-7930; fax (209) 228-7955

January 23, 2014

# IGNACIO LOPEZ-CALVO CHAIR, DIVISION COUNCIL

## Re: New WASC Core Competency Expectation

At its December 11 meeting, UGC discussed the new WASC core competency requirement and the proposal drafted by ALO/Coordinator of Institutional Assessment Martin and VPDUE Whitt suggesting ways for meeting this expectation. ALO Martin was in attendance to present the proposal. UGC comments are summarized below.

The assessment of the core competencies is envisioned to occur through the assessment of PLOs, which is natural. There are, however, core competency components which do not overlap with existing PLOs. For example, Information Literacy is not specifically represented in any PLO for any program; hence it is unclear what mechanism will drive the result of its being assessed by 50 to 100% of the programs in time to satisfy WASC. It is evident that either the scope of existing assessment procedures will have to be expanded to cover all of the specified core competency components, or additional assessment efforts will be required. This issue needs to be planned for more directly than the current document does.

Presumably academic programs are expected to conduct the assessment of PLOs and Core Competencies synchronously, but this expectation should be clarified in the proposal.

Faculty have raised concerns about the faculty time, resources, extra work, and bureaucracy additional expectations might entail and how they might stifle the mission of the University. The authors of the proposal recognize that faculty are responsible for a considerable amount of assessment work. However, we note that the strategy outlined in this proposal was designed to perturb our existing assessment habits the least, and still satisfy WASC requirements.

Sincerely,

hE. his

Jay Sharping Chair, Undergraduate Council

## Cc: UGC Members

DivCo Members Tom Peterson, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Susan Sims, Chief of Staff, Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Elizabeth Whitt, Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education Laura Martin, ALO/Coordinator for Institutional Assessment

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

ACADEMIC SENATE, MERCED DIVISION COMMITTEE ON FACULTY WELFARE, DIVERSITY & ACADEMIC FREEDOM RUDY ORTIZ, CHAIR rortiz@ucmerced.edu UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED 5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD MERCED, CA 95344 (209) 228-4369; fax (209) 228-7955

January 21, 2014

To: Ignacio López-Calvo, Chair, Division Council

**From:** Rudy Ortiz, Chair, Committee on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom (FWDAF)

Re: Request to Review New WASC Core Competency Expectation

FWDAF has no comments on the specific provisions of the attached document; however, the committee wishes to convey its grave concerns over the larger issue of WASC's impact on faculty control of the curriculum.

What these measures demonstrably do is to push faculty to routinize and standardize our curriculum into the "one-size-fits-all" model that No Child Left Behind foisted on K-12. They also have resulted in a large drain on faculty time and a ballooning assessment bureaucracy on campus that eats up resources that could be better used for actual teaching or research. Faculty are deeply committed to undergraduate teaching and if we believed that documents like the one attached pointed the way to better educating our students we'd be willing to invest the time and resources. We think the opposite is true, however, and that the culture of assessment is actually about the continued corporatization of public education and the diminishing of faculty control over the curriculum.

cc: FWDAF members DivCo members Senate office

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

ACADEMIC SENATE, MERCED DIVISION GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC) VALERIE LEPPERT, CHAIR UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED 5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD MERCED, CA 95343 (209) 228-6312

January 22, 2014

То:	Ignacio López-Calvo, Senate Chair
From:	Valerie Leppert, Chair, Graduate Council (GC)
Re:	GC response on the proposal for meeting the new WASC Five Core Competency Expectations

In response to DivCo's request, Graduate Council reviewed the documents related to the campus proposal for meeting the new WASC Five Core Competency Expectations drafted by VPDUE Whitt and ALO Martin. Members had no objections or comments.

We appreciate the opportunity to opine.

Cc: Graduate Council Division Council Academic Senate Office

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

ACADEMIC SENATE, MERCED DIVISION COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PERSONNEL (CAP) RAYMOND GIBBS, CHAIR gibbs@ucsc.edu UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED 5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD MERCED, CA 95344 (209) 228-4369; fax (209) 228-7955

January 21, 2014

To: Ignacio López-Calvo, Chair, Division Council

From: Raymond Gibbs, Chair, Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP) Raymond Gibbs

Re: Request to Review New WASC Core Competency Expectation

CAP appreciates the opportunity to opine on the new WASC core competency expectation but has no comments.

cc: CAP Members DivCo Members Senate Office

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

ACADEMIC SENATE, MERCED DIVISION COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH RUTH MOSTERN, CHAIR rmostern@ucmerced.edu UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED 5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD MERCED, CA 95344 (209) 228-4369; fax (209) 228-7955

January 15, 2014

To: Ignacio López-Calvo, Chair, Division Council

From: Ruth Mostern, Chair, Committee on Research (COR)

Kinh

Re: Campus Request to Review New WASC Core Competency Expectation

COR appreciates the opportunity to review the new WASC core competency expectation but has no comments.

cc: COR members DivCo members Senate office

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

ACADEMIC SENATE, MERCED DIVISION COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION ANNE KELLEY, CHAIR amkelley@ucmerced.edu UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED 5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD MERCED, CA 95344 (209) 228-4369; fax (209) 228-7955

December 5, 2013

- To: Ignacio López-Calvo, Chair, Division Council
- From: Anne Kelley, Chair, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation *Anne Kelley* (CAPRA)
- Re: Request to Review New WASC Core Competency Expectation

CAPRA appreciates the opportunity to opine on the new WASC core competency expectation but has no comments.

cc: CAPRA members DivCo Members Senate office

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED 5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD MERCED, CA 95343 (209) 228-4629

February 24, 2014

Ignacio López-Calvo, Chair, Divisional Council Jay Sharping, Chair, Undergraduate Council

### Laura Martin, Accreditation Liaison Officer & Coordinator of Institutional Assessment Elizabeth Whitt, Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education

### Re: Senate Response to Proposal to WASC Core Competency Expectation

Thank you for the Senate's thoughts regarding the new WASC Core Competency requirement and Undergraduate Council's questions related to the proposal for addressing this expectation. While this letter responds to UGC's request for clarification, please know we will reiterate the faculty's concerns to WASC as opportunities arise. Similarly, we will share them with our colleagues at UCOP, other UC campuses, and other research universities in the WASC region. Regarding UGC's inquiries, our responses follow.

1) UGC asked whether programs will conduct assessment of PLOs and Core Competencies synchronously and, if so, to clearly outline this in the proposal.

This is indeed the intention. The section of the attached proposal titled *Proposed Strategy and Timeline for Implementation within the Majors* (p. 3) discusses this.

2) UCG noted that some core competencies do not seem to overlap with existing PLOs, raising the concern that the scope of existing assessment procedures will have to be expanded to cover all of the specified core competency components, or additional assessment efforts will be required. Information Literacy was cited as an example of such a competency.

Although a competency may not be explicitly represented in the PLOs of a program, it is anticipated that most if not all of the competencies are implicit to the outcomes of nearly all majors.<sup>1</sup> For instance, elements of <u>Information Literacy</u> might be engaged in the work student undertake in relation to a PLO such as "Show that they understand and can apply the writing style used in psychological literature." or "The ability to read, evaluate, interpret, and apply numerical and general scientific information."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> An exception may be quantitative reasoning in humanities majors. This could be the focus of a separate working group of humanities faculty.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> PLOs of the <u>Psychology</u> and <u>Biology</u> majors respectively.

A plan for helping programs identify the implicit relationships among PLOs and competencies, and to provide resources to integrate assessment of the competency into program assessment activities, is provided on pp.3-4 of the attached proposal under the heading AY2013-14.

We hope this response provides the additional clarification sought by the Senate and UGC. We would be very happy to discuss these details or answer additional questions in person.

Sincerely,

Laura Martin, ALO/Coordinator of Institutional Assessment Elizabeth Whitt, Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education

Copy: Tom Peterson, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Susan Sims, Chief of Staff, Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Encl. (1)