



RESOLUTION-POLICY

X	Action Item
	For Information Only

From: Dr. Eric Milou, Rowan University Senate President

To: Dr. James Newell, Interim Associate Provost

Date: 5/8/12

RE: Senate Resolution **120507-1**

Resolution to include Learning Outcomes in New Curriculum Proposals

WHEREAS, Rowan University is committed to integrating assessment within a continuous feedback loop that begins with curriculum design;

WHEREAS, Rowan University is required to complete a Periodic Review Report for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in 2014;

WHEREAS, the Periodic Review Report must explicitly respond to the following recommendation made by the site evaluation team during our 2009 accreditation review with respect to Standard 14, Assessment of Student Learning:

The University should establish goals related to the assessment of student learning outcomes, incorporate those goals into its strategic plan, and communicate both the goals and the assessment findings across the institution.

WHEREAS, 58 of 58 academic programs at Rowan have currently completed Outcomes Assessment Frameworks and submitted them to Institutional Effectiveness, Research and Planning (IERP), which is step 1 of the teaching-learning-assessment cycle;

WHEREAS, these Outcomes Assessment Frameworks include Program Goals, Student Learning Goals, and Student Learning Outcomes;

AND WHEREAS, Middle States' *Characteristics of Excellence in Higher Education* also maintains that, as part of step 2 of the teaching-learning-assessment cycle, "[e]ducational programs and curricula should demonstrate . . . clear linkages between the design of specific courses, programs, and learning activities and the articulated goals of the specific programs of which they are part and to the overarching mission of the institution" (41-42);

BE IT RESOLVED THAT beginning in Fall 2012, the curriculum proposal format will be changed to include categories that address the alignment of the proposal with the goals and outcomes identified in the Outcomes Assessment Frameworks.

CLARIFICATION 1: Although Outcomes Assessment Frameworks and their constituent parts—such as Program Goals, Student Learning Goals, and Student Learning Outcomes—are subject to change, already-approved curriculum proposals will not be required to be revised.

CLARIFICATION 2: Changes in Outcomes Assessment Frameworks do not require curricular approval.

DISCUSSION: The goal of this resolution is to fulfill Middle States' expectations for the Periodic Review Report by making explicit the already implied alignment between curriculum and assessment processes. Nearly every academic unit has created what the IERP is calling Phase I Outcomes Assessment Frameworks, with Phase II due soon. By asking that curriculum proposals use the assessment information and terminology already established by a department or program, this alignment will not require additional work on the part of the curriculum proposers. This resolution only asks that proposals draw upon the work done in those planning documents so that new curriculum clearly aligns with existing student learning goals.

More specifically, curriculum proposal guidelines will need to be amended to reflect the requirement of this additional information:

Process A: New Course Proposals

Section IV: Essence of the Course.

From: a: Objectives of the course in relation to student outcomes. These are statements of what a student is to learn as a result of completing the course.

To: a: Objectives of the course in relation to student outcomes. These are statements of what a student is to learn as a result of completing the course and how these course objectives fulfill student learning goals and outcomes, as articulated in the Outcomes Assessment Frameworks for the relevant academic department or program. Frameworks can be found at <http://www.rowan.edu/president/ierp/assessment/>.

Process C: New program (including bachelor's/master's dual degrees), minor, specialization, concentration, achievement certificate, certification program track, COGS, or CAGS.

Section IV: Essence of the Course.

- From a. Major goals of the program.
 b. Specific objectives of the program.

To: a. Using the appropriate Outcomes Assessment Framework, articulate the expected Program Goals, Student Learning Goals, and Student Learning Outcomes. Proposals to be housed within existing programs should use the relevant Outcomes Assessment Framework to inform the discussion. Approved Frameworks can be found at <http://www.rowan.edu/president/ierp/assessment/>.

Proposals to be housed outside of existing programs will need to create an Outcomes Assessment Framework. Templates for Outcomes Assessment Framework can be found at <http://www.rowan.edu/president/ierp/assessment/academic.html>.

Acceptance:

_____ I give my approval. I have forwarded this item to _____ for implementation.

_____ No approval is actually needed. I have forwarded this item to the following individual or office for informational purposes only:

ADDITIONAL REVIEW NEEDED:

_____ I am willing to give approval if the following modification(s) are made:

_____ Before I can approve or reject this item, I need clarification on the following:

_____ I have forwarded this item to the following individual or office for further consideration and consultation.

Rejection:

_____ I decline acceptance of this item for the following reason:

Please Return this Copy to the University Senate President ~ Retain a Copy for Your Records