As Columbia College endeavors to prepare for the next accreditation site visit, one revised ACCJC Accreditation standard is getting a lot of attention.

Standard II. Student Learning and Programs and Support Systems, A.3 reads:

The institution identifies and regularly assesses learning outcomes for courses, programs, certificates and degrees using established institutional procedures. The institution has officially approved and current course outlines that include student learning outcomes. In every class section students receive a course syllabus that includes learning outcomes from the institution’s officially approved course outline.

What does this mean for the institution?

SLOS ON COURSE OUTLINES

To conform to the revised ACCJC standard, Columbia College will need to identify how it will respond in terms of incorporating SLOs into course outline content, and fundamental to that, what is required to actually accomplish it.

STATE OF THE SLO

Course outlines of record do not presently contain SLO statements for courses. Those statements exist in a separate database. CurricUNET, the college’s third-party curriculum management database is configured to manage SLO statements, but that feature is not currently enabled at Columbia.

Other third party tools exist to manage SLOs and assessment data, but unfortunately, they do not yet integrate with curriculum management. eLumen, a tool that has gleaned praise for its integration of learning assessment with accreditation standards is reportedly developing a curriculum management module, however, that component is still in the drafting stages.

PRIORITY: SITE VISIT READY

The requirement to integrate SLOs in the Course Outline of Record is a significant clarion call for colleges across the state, and appears to indicate an accreditation request to evaluate SLOs in time with course outline objectives and content. While some may be concerned about the integration of these processes, and the mechanics of doing so, it presents an opportunity to streamline two analogous workflows which may very likely save valuable time across the college.

At the September 8 Executive Curriculum Committee meeting, the revised standard was introduced to the committee and available options for response were discussed. On September 29, the committee resolved to explore and test the dormant SLO statement. Continued. See “SLOs” on page 3.
Welcome, Michelle Walker!

She joins the team as Interim Executive Secretary for the Vice President of Student Learning

Michelle Walker in 2013

Student Learning is delighted to welcome Michelle Walker as the new Interim Executive Secretary to the Vice President of Student Learning.

Michelle brings a wealth of skills, education, and experience to the role. A native of the region, Michelle spent her childhood here, but moved to St. Louis, Missouri in 2007 at which point she was offered a position at Saint Louis University (SLU). There, she worked for the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for nearly 4 years where her primary charge was to review biomedical human subjects research protocols. While at SLU she began her bachelor’s program in the School of Social Work. Upon departing SLU, she decided to complete her bachelor’s degree through the University of Phoenix.

In 2012, Michelle moved back to California and, shortly thereafter, began working at Columbia College in Special Programs in 2013. During her time working for DSPS and EOPS/CARE, she collaborated with other staff to research, test, and implement a digital records system designed to help her area streamline its records management system and processes. This innovation proved to be an excellent decision for the area. As such, this accomplishment brought Michelle a huge sense of satisfaction being one who places a high value on organization, efficiency, and maximizing the use of technology for the greater good.

Currently, Michelle is working on her Masters in Business Administration. She hopes to be complete the requirements by the summer of 2016.

She describes her husband Robby as her “polar opposite.” They are enormously proud of their two incredible children who bring them much joy. Their son Keandre (18) is enrolled this term as a freshman and is transitioning easily to the college environment. Their daughter, Jasmyne (15), is a middle college student at Columbia, as well as a junior at Sonora High. In her spare time, Michelle enjoys spending time with family, reading, and traveling. She is passionate about higher education and social justice and believes in living a life of integrity and purpose.

For now, she is enjoying her new adventure in Student Learning. As a Student Services veteran, she welcomes all that she will learn about Student Learning and is excited to have a more comprehensive understanding of how the college runs, and looks forward to serving students and colleagues in a brand new capacity.
To ensure the validity of fees being charged, an internal audit of fees and fee validation is currently underway to identify assessed fees that require updated forms. You may be contacted to validate fees assessed for Spring 2015.

SLOs p. 1

module in CurricUNET. Governet was asked to activate the module in the “test” CurricUNET site so that Curriculum Committee leaders and stakeholders could interact with it.

Further discussions with the SLO Mentors, VPSL Office, and the Academic Senate will result in an action plan for responding to Standard II.A.3.

If you have questions about the accreditation standards, SLOs or Curriculum, contact your SLO mentor, the Curriculum Committee chair, or Senate representative.

Alumni News

Contributed by Paula Clarke

- Former Columbia College student, Katherine (Katie) Slocum (left), was selected to receive the UC Santa Cruz Dean’s Undergraduate Award for her thesis research, published under the title, From Farmlevel to Streetlevel: An ethnography of Direct Trace Coffee Production in Santa Barbara, Honduras. Katie is the second former CC student in recent years to receive this award.

- Former Columbia College student, Jesse Wasson, who has just completed his first year at UCLA will be studying at Lund University in Sweden during fall 2015. Felicity Machado, also a former CC student, will be joining Jesse later this fall.

- Former Columbia College student, Kristine Lawson, who transferred from CC to UC Berkeley and is now in the Ph.D. program in Anthropology at UC Santa Cruz, spent the summer in Turkey for intensive language training and preliminary dissertation research on rural conditions.