**Guam Community College**

**Addressing Team Recommendations and Actionable Improvement Plans (AIPs)**

**Standard II**

**Midterm Report: Fall 2013**

**Introduction**

Standard II focuses on the instructional programs, student support services, and library and learning support services that facilitate and demonstrate the achievement of stated student learning outcomes.

The following are the status updates of the Actionable Improvement Plans that were identified in the ISER and recommendation from the Accreditation Team during their evaluation of the College in March 2012 relevant to Standard II:

**Team Recommendations**

1. In order to improve, the team recommends that the College develop a process for systematically evaluating non-credit courses, workshops, and training sessions for content and effectiveness, in alignment with the assessment process that is in place for credit courses. (II.A.2)

**Action Taken:** In August 2012, the Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CE&WD) submitted a plan for the systematic evaluation of non-credit courses, workshops, and training sessions. The plan was approved by the Academic Vice-President that same month.[[1]](#footnote-1) The plan was incorporated as part of the assessment of the CE & WD office. Their assessment report for Spring 2013 provided data on the plan.[[2]](#footnote-2)

In October 2013, a memo was sent to all departments that the CEU or non-credit courses initiated by departments must be assessed by the initiating department through their Group D department courses assessment unit.[[3]](#footnote-3) Similar to credit courses, effective Spring 2014, the departments would select the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) to be assessed and input the results into TracDat.

**Status:** Ongoing. Data has been collected and reported on the plan.

**Next Step:** Review and assess feasibility and/or necessity for conducting full assessment on CEUs and no credit courses.

2. In order to improve, the team recommends that the College develop a plan for distance education, including continuing education offered through distance education, and implement appropriate support services and procedures to deliver instruction online. (I.A.1, I.B.4, I.B.5,I.B.6, II.A.1, II.A.2, II.A.3, II.A.6, II.A.7, II, B.3.a, II.C.1.c, IIIC.)

**Action Taken:** A distance education (DE) plan/scope of work has been drafted for the College under the Office of Business and Finance.[[4]](#footnote-4) The draft outlines the scope of work needed to move DE forward. The scope of work includes the development of a *DE Strategic Plan* and a *DE Manual of Operating Procedures*. Two reports, a *DE Needs Assessment Report* and a *DE Capabilities Assessment Report* are due July 2014, and the *DE Manual of Standard Operating Procedures* is due October 2014. Specific details and tasks are outlined in the draft.

**Status:** Ongoing. The DE plan is in a draft form.

**Next Step:** The DE plan and scope of work needs to be approved and tasks need to begin to move DE forward at the College.

**Actionable Improvement Plans (AIP):**

1. Increase compliance rate of curriculum revision process to ensure courses and programs are not over five years old, hence remaining current with community and industry standards. (Standard II.A.1)

**Action Taken:** The 2013-2014 Faculty Evaluation system was reviewed. Areas relating to the curriculum revision process are in the current faculty evaluation system for department chairs[[5]](#footnote-5) and instructional faculty[[6]](#footnote-6).

The Curriculum Manual 2013 states that course and program guides must be reviewed every five years to be current with industry and national standards. Therefore, the Academic Vice President may inform departments that courses and programs that are not in compliance cannot be offered or scheduled.

As of Fall 2013, two “Curriculum Writing Workshops”[[7]](#footnote-7) were offered to faculty to provide mentoring in updating and writing curriculum.

**Status:** Ongoing.Incentives to increase compliance rate are adequate.

**Next Step:** Review the number of outdated courses and program documents to see if there is an increase in compliance.

1. Develop a process for the systematic evaluation of non-credit courses, workshops and training sessions, in alignment with the formalized assessment process that is already in place at the college. (Standard II.A.2)

**Action Taken:** In August 2012, the Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CE&WD) submitted a plan for the systematic evaluation of non-credit courses, workshops, and training sessions. The plan was approved by the Academic Vice-President that same month. [[8]](#footnote-8) The plan was incorporated as part of the assessment of the CE & WD office. Their assessment report for Spring 2013 provided data on the plan.[[9]](#footnote-9)

In October 2013, a memo was sent to all departments that the CEU or non-credit courses initiated by departments must be assessed by the initiating department through their Group D department courses assessment unit.[[10]](#footnote-10) Similar to credit courses, effective Spring 2014, the departments would select the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) to be assessed and input the results into TracDat.

**Status:** Ongoing. Data has been collected and reported on the plan.

**Next Step:** Review and assess feasibility and/or necessity for conducting full assessment on CEUs and no credit courses.

1. Use the online version of the IDEA rating survey for online courses, in alignment with this teaching modality’s goals of providing an alternative for students to evaluate their own learning. (Standard II.A.2c)

**Action Taken:** In Fall 2012, the Office of Assessment, Institutional Research and Effectiveness developed an online survey that mirrors the IDEA rating survey used in traditional courses. Students enrolled in the 3 online courses offered Fall 2012 were surveyed through an announcement and link in the course. Out of the 52 students enrolled, 12 students responded. The AIER staff transferred the responses from the online survey to the IDEA bubble sheet. These were then submitted along with the responses for traditional courses. This is the mechanism and process by which online courses will be evaluated.

In Fall 2013, the Office of AIER administered surveys from October 22 through November 9, 2013 for both the online classes and traditional courses.

**Status:** Ongoing.

**Next Step:** Review the response rate for Fall2013 IDEA rating surveys.

1. Foster dialogue among program faculty and the Learning Outcomes Committee (LOC) to provide standards for grading and awarding of credit by strengthening language in the course guide. The awarding of credit discussion should be guided by the federal definition of credit hour. (Standard II.A.2h)

**Action Taken:** The Learning Outcomes Committee placed the issue on their Fall 2013 agenda. The strengthening of language for standardizing grades has been discussed and the committee is preparing a written response. The response is set to be finalized by November 22, 2013.

**Status:** Ongoing.

**Next Step:** Review the written response for standardizing grades.

1. Provide a systematic process for standardizing identification, use and reporting of service learning to align with the broad goals of general education. (Standard II.A.3c)

**Action Taken:** The Learning Outcomes Committee (LOC) formed the General Education Committee working group under LOC. This committee revised the Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILO) Mapping Matrix for General Education to distinguish skills crucial to General Education courses. At the end of Spring 2012, the revised ILO and a survey were distributed. Thirty-three surveys were sent out, and thirty-two surveys were returned. Findings were that there were no issues related to meeting the ILO’s for courses which had more than one instructor.

In Fall 2013, the General Education Committee was re-institutionalized as a formal committee under the Faculty Senate.

**Status:** Ongoing. The General Education Committee is reviewing the ILO survey results and will be determining if a new survey needs to be distributed.

**Next Step:** Follow-up on the status of the ILO surveys.

1. Bolster academic advisement process and procedures for all faculty so that student support through advisement remains strong and effective. (Standard II.B.3c)

**Action Taken:** An Academic Advisement Task Force was formed Fall 2012 to look at strengthening the academic advisement process. The task force consists of faculty, including traditional and non-traditional (counselors) faculty, and the TSS Dean and Associate Dean. The task force worked on the GCC Academic Advising Model, an Academic Advisor Handbook, and a flowchart for Advising Delivery.

**Status:** Ongoing. As of Fall 2013, a draft of the advisement handbook was sent to the Department Chairs to disseminate to faculty for review.

**Next Step:** Task force should finalize and obtain approval from Academic Vice-President via TSS Dean on the deliverables, and then develop plan for training.

1. Evaluate the safety and security of physical records, and consider various alternative ways (including electronic means) to protect the integrity of student records at all times. (Standard II.B.3f)

**Action Taken:** The Registrar reported the Banner Group team reviews the memory to ensure that there is sufficient memory as new students and information are added. Currently, there is sufficient digital memory and files are backed up daily. The College does not have enough space to hold physical records. The College has two vaults which are fire proof, but these are at capacity. The College is using a container/office to hold some other physical records that do not fit within the vaults. More vaults, which are fire proof and climate controlled, are needed to hold records. The College is discussing alternatives, including a system where an outside vendor digitizes records so that physical records are kept to a minimum.

**Status:** Ongoing. The registrar has been contacted for updates on the steps taken to protect student records. Currently, no vaults were purchased and no alternative system to digitize physical records, reducing the need for space and vaults, has been finalized.

**Next Step:** Registrar should continue to follow-up and document solutions to the lack of space to keep physical records secure and safe.

1. Revisit recommendations to examine how the survey findings have been used to implement a more efficient delivery of student programs and services. (Standard II.B.4)

**Action Taken:** All concerns on the Faces of the Future surveys have been addressed. The College has no plans to administer the Faces of the Future surveys. Information will be obtained by other means for future reports.

**Status:** Closed.

**Next Step:** None.

1. Allocate a percentage of funds for supporting additional resources in the LRC when new programs are developed or when existing programs are significantly modified. (Standard II.C.1a)

**Action Taken:** Suggestion was given last academic year to the LOC chair to add a section to the program and course guide forms that directly addresses the need for additional LRC resources.[[11]](#footnote-11) Review of the Curriculum Manual indicates that this suggestion was not part of the latest revisions to the Curriculum Manual.

**Status:** Ongoing. Currently, there have not been enough funds for print books to allocate a percentage to new programs. There is still no mechanism to request for funding the LROC when new programs are developed or when existing programs are significantly modified.

**Next Step:** Follow up on LOC regarding inputting this topic in the agenda for this academic year.

1. Research the need and demand for additional electronic resources including e-book readers and computer tablets to facilitate the use of enhanced electronic services.(Standard II.C.2)

**Action Taken:** LRC received funding for an e-book higher education database, the EBSCO Academic E-book Collection and the EBSCO periodical database. Employees and students can set up a free account with EBSCO which allows them to download e-books. On October 2013, LRC surveyed faculty and students as part of its regular assessment cycle. As of November 2013, the survey results are being reviewed and will be uploaded on TracDat.

**Status:** Ongoing.

**Next Step:** LRC should review, upload, and analyze the results of the surveys.

**Directory of Evidence**

E1. [Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CE&WD) Plan for Assessment Memo (Approved)](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E1.Std2.CEWDAssessmentProcess.pdf)

E2. [Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development Assessment Report - Spring 2013](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E2.Std2.CEWDAssessmentReport.pdf)

E3. [Distance Education Plan and Scope of Work - Draft](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E3.Std2.DE%20Project%20ScopeDRAFT.pdf)

E4. [Evaluation Rubric – Department Chairs](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E5.Std2.RubricDeptChair.pdf)

E5. [Evaluation Rubric – Instructional Faculty](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E4.Std2.RubricInstructionalFaculty.pdf)

E6. [Curriculum Manual – Spring 2013](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E6.Std2.CurriculumManualSpring2013.pdf)

E7. [Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CE&WD) Plan for Assessment Memo (Approved)](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E1.Std2.CEWDAssessmentProcess.pdf)

E8. [Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development Assessment Report - Spring 2013](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E2.Std2.CEWDAssessmentReport.pdf)

E9. [Learning Outcomes Committee Minutes of November 09, 2012](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E7.Std2.LOCMinutes11092012.pdf)

E10. [Email from G. Hartz, LOC Chair, December 2012](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E8.GHartz.Email.12052013.pdf)

E11. [Learning Outcomes Committee Minutes of January 25, 2013](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E9a.Std2.LOCMinutes01252013.pdf); [Learning Outcomes Committee Minutes of February 15, 2013](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E9b.Std2.LOCMinutes02152013.pdf); [Learning Outcomes Committee Minutes of April 5, 2013](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E9c.Std2.LOCMinutes04052013.pdf)

E12. [Academic Advisement Task Force Minutes March 6, 2013](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E10a.Std2.AcademicAdvisementTaskforce30613Minutes.pdf); [Academic Advisement Task Force Minutes April 4, 2013](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E10b.Std2.AcademicAdvisementTaskforce40413.pdf); [Academic Advisement Task Force Minutes April 17, 2013](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E10c.Std2.AcademicAdvisementTaskforce41713.pdf); [Academic Advisement Task Force Minutes May 1, 2013](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E10d.Std2.AcademicAdvisementTaskforce050113.pdf)

E13. [Email sent to LOC November 12, 2011](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E11.Std2.EmailtoLOC1112011.pdf)

E14. [Memo on Assessment and Reporting of Credit, CEU, and Non-credit Courses Offered By Departments through CEWD](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/cewd/CEWDmemoonassessmentandreporting.pdf)

1. [Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CE&WD) Plan for Assessment Memo (Approved)](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E1.Std2.CEWDAssessmentProcess.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development Assessment Report - Spring 2013](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E2.Std2.CEWDAssessmentReport.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [Memo on Assessment and Reporting of Credit, CEU, and Non-credit Courses Offered By Departments through CEWD](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/cewd/CEWDmemoonassessmentandreporting.pdf)

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 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [Distance Education Plan and Scope of Work - Draft](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E3.Std2.DE%20Project%20ScopeDRAFT.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. [Evaluation Rubric – Department Chairs](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E5.Std2.RubricDeptChair.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. [Evaluation Rubric – Instructional Faculty](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E4.Std2.RubricInstructionalFaculty.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Curriculum Writing Workshops- Announcements/Sign in Sheets [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. [Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CE&WD) Plan for Assessment Memo (Approved)](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E1.Std2.CEWDAssessmentProcess.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. [Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development Assessment Report - Spring 2013](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E2.Std2.CEWDAssessmentReport.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. [Memo on Assessment and Reporting of Credit, CEU, and Non-credit Courses Offered By Departments through CEWD](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/cewd/CEWDmemoonassessmentandreporting.pdf)

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 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. [Email sent to LOC November 12, 2011](http://ifs.guamcc.edu/adminftp/academics/services/aad/aier/standard2/20122013/spring2013/E11.Std2.EmailtoLOC1112011.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-11)