

## **Advancement of Student Learning Council**

Minutes

January 25, 2022

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Katie Dodds, co-chair, School of Law  
Brad Dudley, co-chair, Student Affairs  
Jacqueline Dillion, Seaver College  
Seta Khajarian, Office of Institutional Effectiveness  
Lee Kats, Vice Provost, ex officio  
Kim Miller, Director of Online Learning  
Jim Prieger, School of Public Policy  
Heather Thomson-Bunn, Seaver College  
Jeremy Whitt, University Libraries  
Tonya Wood, Graduate School of Education and Psychology

Members Absent: Charla Griffy-Brown, Graziadio Business School

### **I. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- A. Brad Dudley opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed new members with brief ASLC member introductions.

### **II. Business**

- A. The Advancement of Student Learning Council approved the December 13, 2021 meeting minutes.

### **III. Program Reviews**

- A. Seta Khajarian and Jeremy Whitt provided an update on the DBA Program Review.
  - 1. Additional resources have been secured to support the review. The knowledge still needed was reviewed, specifically about dissertations. Charla Griffy-Brown has been included in communications and is aware of the needs. The review's anticipated completion is February or March.
- B. Kim Miller and Seta Khajarian presented their BSM Program Review findings summary.
  - 1. Commendations: Overall, this program meets expectations. PLOs were well formulated for the accomplishments sought for in the program. Most of the

specific skills and competencies were outlined to be met at graduation. The review did especially well in taking previous recommendations and making modifications to language or assessment accordingly. High interest in the program is also a commendation.

2. Recommendations: Some Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) could align better with ILOs. There is a decrease in enrollment even though statistics show student satisfaction with the program and there is much room for program growth. There are many data characterizing personal characteristics, but a reviewer suggested comparing this with external data including state and national trends to show the benefit of the program and learn what can be gleaned from peer and aspirational schools with similar programs.
3. It was asked whether the enrollment target was indicated and it was responded that this was uncertain. The program's responses to external-made recommendations could indicate a shift toward online, but this is an outstanding question for the program.
4. The reviewers noted that this program produced action plans based on the external reports and these might be uplifted by the ASLC letter in addition to these recommendations.
5. Katie Dodds suggested the reviewers write Charla Griffy-Brown an email with their outstanding questions inviting any immediate insight, and the ASLC letter will include any remaining outstanding points. Brad Dudley reminded members that this is why there is a representative from each school on ASLC membership: to be an ambassador to learning information about the programs without having to ask more from the schools. A reviewer highlighted that this is a well-polished review, but they would like to learn more about the program's long-term vision to add reflections and value to what they are doing.

C. Tonya Wood and Katie Dodds presented their Fully Employed MBA Program Review findings summary.

1. Commendations: PLOs were detailed and behaviorally anchored, making them appear intentional in design. Curriculum changes appear to be responsive to indirect and direct, internal and external data and feedback, notably in response to student learning. The evaluation of their PLOs, alignment between PLOs, ILOs, Leadership Competency Model, and Pepperdine's mission and vision, and detailing a quality improvement plan were well corroborated and expressed. It is clear the program is using evidence-based decision making to make curricular changes which is

outstanding. The program grew in the pandemic, perhaps due to this program's design for people with business experience which the program might use as an opportunity.

2. Recommendations: Some places including instructional methods could use more detail. The document would benefit from streamlining the many repetitive responses throughout in hopes of making the process less cumbersome for the school and readers. Suggestions were made. A reviewer asked whether the template used is required or whether the programs could streamline reports. Charla Griffy-Brown may be solicited for a response.

D. Katie Dodds and Brad Dudley presented their Online MS in Human Resources Program Review findings summary.

1. Commendations: Overall, the program meets expectations. The program did well mapping PLOs onto the ILOs. Though the program is too new for tracking dramatic curriculum changes, there is evidence that the program is listening to student feedback to make informed changes.
2. Recommendations: The document would benefit from streamlining. There is an opportunity to strengthen PLO verb choices to be more outcome based, which will strengthen the assessment too. Resource allocation was not addressed. There are outstanding questions with how the program is tracking graduates' career progression; though this is a young program and many students are already working in HR it would help the program to learn how they are measuring student success. Condensing the currently numerous PLOs to 5 or 6 with aspects under each would be beneficial in being able to accomplish them. Course sequence should be clarified. It was noted that in curriculum comparison, this program is far more expensive than other schools so program cost and value might be addressed.

E. Brad Dudley and Jim Prieger presented their Executive MBA Program Review findings summary.

1. Commendations: Overall, this was a clear review. PLOs were strong and succinct. Measuring student outcomes are done well while students are in the program.
2. Recommendations: The review did not appear to be written to address all elements on which ASLC is reviewing. The program is revamping so the usefulness of this review was questioned. Program mission and purpose were vague in what a student hoped to gain in this program. Suggestions were provided to be more specific as it was suggested that this will support the program in addressing its shrinking size. A reviewer noted their thought

that PLO and ILO alignment could use more detail and it was asked whether what was provided is sufficient. Faculty overview, adjuncts, allocation of resources, and sequence of experience were not addressed. A reviewer commented on the shift toward younger candidates and how this might affect the program. Measuring student outcomes after program completion is recommended and recommendations to surveying were provided. PLO verbs could be strengthened. A reviewer noted expecting a history of how the program has changed given the program's maturity, which would help address observations made about the program.

3. Seta clarified that OIE analyzes surveys that programs perform, but do not help with the survey construction.

#### **IV. WSCUC Update**

- A. Vice Provost Kats provided a WSCUC update.
  1. Seta Khajarian, Vice Provost Kats, President Gash and Provost Brewster discussed the initial report and the anecdotal way it was written with the Visiting Team. The Visiting Team revised the report to be more data based and returned it to Pepperdine in late December. President Gash and Provost Brewster have been well involved in writing Pepperdine's response letter which comments on the commendations and recommendations and expresses appreciation for their review of Pepperdine's online programs. Vice Provost Kats reviewed the letter's proposed action steps and a timeline for next steps.

#### **V. Review ASLC Letters: FTMBA and MSHR**

- A. Katie Dodds requested ASLC members' feedback on the FTMBA and MSHR Program Review cover letters from ASLC. Seta Khajarian suggested adding page numbers which Petra Rickertsen will complete. Katie Dodds outlined next steps.

#### **VI. Additional Items**

- A. Vice Provost Kats reminded members that UPC is available to support ASLC in moving Program Reviews forward, and commented on anticipation for ASLC to report to UPC on Program Reviews. Seta Khajarian added that such reporting from ASLC to UPC and UAC are noted in the WASC report, and that historically ASLC Program Review updates have been an ongoing agenda item for UPC and UAC.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

- A. The meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m. The next ASLC meeting will be on February 22, 2022 via Zoom.