Despite the challenges of the past year and a half, assessment activities have continued on campus and we are appreciative of the numerous programs who have engaged in dialogue with our office. In 2020-21, Academic Affairs received revised assessment plans from approximately 30 programs on campus. In addition, many degree-granting programs submitted annual reports in 2020-21, demonstrating their ongoing dedication to student learning and program improvement. Please see the Annual Assessment and Resources webpage for examples of annual reports and assessment plans that we consider campus models (the MA in Geography is an excellent example of how a curriculum map and assessment plan work together): https://www.csulb.edu/academic-affairs/program-review-and-assessment/annual-assessment-reports-and-resources.

Department chairs and assessment leads also dialogued regularly with our office on revising Program Learning Outcomes (some for equity, others to address program changes due to EO 1071). We very much value these ongoing conversations as faculty seek to refine outcomes to be more measurable, effective and equitable. Every program is at a different level of assessment expertise, and to encourage departments, analysis of those reports is written as a conversation. The goal is to encourage thoughtful self-reflection from each program as well as to advise on future assessment options.

As you know, in March 2020 the campus moved to AMI instruction and a moratorium was placed on assessment reporting for spring 2020. In lieu of annual assessment reports, Academic Affairs requested that all program on campus submit revised assessment plans for their programs by December, 2020. Our main focus for 2020-21 was the distribution of faculty and student surveys (a partnership between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs) regarding the transition to Alternative Mode of Instruction (AMI). During this time, we continued to work with departments as they submitted their program assessment plans. The first set of surveys in spring 2020 helped inform the professional development programs established in 2020. The second set of surveys conducted during fall 2020 focused on student learning and affirmed the positive impact of the 2020 professional development activities in terms of students’ perceptions of their learning. The results of the fall 2020 surveys were reported widely on campus through communications to deans and department chairs and also presented to the Academic Senate Executive Committee and through the Faculty Center to department chairs. It was announced at that time that annual assessment reporting would resume for 2021 for spring 2022 reporting.

For 2021-22, all programs are returning to annual reporting of their PLOs, due by June 1, 2022 to the Coordinator of Program Review & Assessment and Academic Affairs. Please remember that any activity addressing MOU recommendations should be included in annual assessment reporting,
in addition to at least one direct measure of a PLO. In addition, if you have not already submitted an assessment plan, please do so by December, 2021 to the Coordinator of Program Review & Assessment and Academic Affairs. These plans will be used to monitor PLO assessment on an annual basis in preparation for your program review. A video tutorial has been created to help assist you with the development/revision of your assessment plan, available on the Program Review and Assessment website: https://www.csulb.edu/academic-affairs/program-review-and-assessment

Sincerely,

Jody Cormack
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies

Lorin Johnson
Coordinator of Program Review and Assessment