General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: Chem 100W, Writing Workshop: Chemical Communications GE Area: Z

Results reported for AY: 2012 – 2013 # of sections: 2 # of instructors: 1 (Dr. Brooke Lustig)

Course Coordinator: Prof. Bradley M. Stone, Ph.D. E-mail: bradley.stone@science.sjsu

Department Chair: Prof. Gilles Muller, Ph.D. College: Science

Instructions: Each year, the department will prepare a brief (two page maximum) report that documents the assessment of the course during the year. This report will be electronically submitted, by the department chair, to the Office of Undergraduate Studies, with an electronic copy to the home college by September 1 of the following academic year.

Part 1

To be completed by the course coordinator:

1. What SLO(s) were assessed for the course during the AY?

   SLO 1: Students shall be able to refine the competencies established in Written Communication IA and IB as summarized below

2. What were the results of the assessment of this course? What were the lessons learned from the assessment?

   All students in the course, except for 1 WU, completed the major paper assignment. This assignment is to write a review article on a particular scientific topic. In this assignment, the students review the recent scientific literature, and write to a general audience (who possess some scientific background or training). For Spring 2013, 11 students received an ‘A’ on this assignment, 9 received a ‘B’, 3 received a ‘C’, and none received below a ‘C’. This assignment has been an integral part of this course since before SLOs were instituted by the University.

3. What modifications to the course, or its assessment activities or schedule, are planned for the upcoming year? (If no modifications are planned, the course coordinator should indicate this.)

   None. SLO #2 will be evaluated in the next cycle (academic year 2013 – 2014).

Part 2

To be completed by the department chair (with input from course coordinator as appropriate):

4. Are all sections of the course still aligned with the area Goals, Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), Content, Support, and Assessment? If they are not, what actions are planned?

   Yes. This course has been regularly and consistently taught by one instructor (Dr. Brooke Lustig), and occasionally taught by the course coordinator (Prof. Brad Stone), including in Summer sessions.
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Part 1

To be completed by the course coordinator:

(1) What SLO(s) were assessed for the course during the AY?

SLO #1: **Students shall be able to refine the competencies established in Written Communication IA and IB.**

(2) What were the results of the assessment of this course? What were the lessons learned from the assessment?

All students who complete Chem 100W, must complete a “major paper” assignment. This assignment is to write a review article on a particular current area of scientific research. The format of this paper is that of a review article in a major scientific journal. This paper is typically 25 – 30 pages in length, and provides the bulk of the 8000 word minimum writing requirement for 100W courses. Students write several versions of the paper before submitting the final version. Drafts are reviewed by the instructor, editors (instructor and fellow students) and peer reviewers (fellow students). The reiterative writing process emulates the process that we as scientists all go through in the submission process of a scientific paper to a peer reviewed journal. The result of the peer review process is, without exception, a much better written review article. This process represents a refining process to each student’s writing, and thus is entirely in accordance with SLO #1, in which we look to refine the competencies established in 1A/1B. *Note: this assignment has been an integral part of this course since before SLOs were instituted by the University.*

(3) What modifications to the course, or its assessment activities or schedule, are planned for the upcoming year? (If no modifications are planned, the course coordinator should indicate this.)

None. SLO #2 will be evaluated in the next cycle (academic year 2013 – 2014).

Part 2

To be completed by the department chair (with input from course coordinator as appropriate):

(4) Are all sections of the course still aligned with the area Goals, Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), Content, Support, and Assessment? If they are not, what actions are planned?

Yes. This course is regularly and consistently taught by instructors who are well familiar with the original concept and development of the course (some years ago by Professor Brad Stone) as it has been taught recently, regularly by Dr. Brooke Lustig, and occasionally by the course coordinator (Prof. Brad Stone), as well as by Professor Roger Terrill and Prof. Joseph Pesek.