September 17, 2014

TO: CAS Department and Program Heads  
FROM: Ian F. McNeely, CAS Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education  
RE: Learning Outcomes Assessment

The need to identify and assess “learning outcomes” affords us an opportunity to explain to our students the abilities that an arts and sciences education imparts, and to ensure that our curriculum intentionally fosters those abilities.

This year’s assessment-related activities will focus on two questions:

- How well do departments’ curricula align with the learning outcomes they identified last year and, as applicable, with the goals of General Education?
- Do students feel they are attaining the outcomes our faculty have identified?

Tasks for the year

During 2014-15, each CAS department/program will be asked to:

(a) relay and reinforce instructions from CAS on the need for faculty to include course-level learning outcomes on their syllabi – by Sep. 19

(b) produce a “curriculum map” linking its program-level outcomes to the courses it offers AND explain in a brief paragraph the rationale(s) behind its General Education offerings – by Nov. 5 (soft deadline) or Dec. 15 (hard deadline)

(c) review student survey data provided by CAS to identify areas where students feel they are and are not acquiring core skills, and formulate follow-up action(s) as needed – by Mar. 15 (soft deadline) or May 1 (hard deadline)

The “soft” deadlines above have been chosen to minimize conflict with ongoing implementation of the United Academics CBA.

Next steps

You will receive guidance from me on each of these tasks. Please inform me by Sep. 26 if you wish to delegate this responsibility and, if so, to whom (e.g. a curriculum committee chair). I can be reached at adue@uoregon.edu; further information will be posted at cas.uoregon.edu/learning-outcomes.