Assessment Activity Report Due November 15th, 2016
to the Office of Academic Planning

Mission Statement template  Please see resources at the Academic Planning website:
http://air.sfsu.edu/assessment/resources

Department CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

College COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Did you have current mission statement as of Spring 2015?  X  Yes    _____  No

If so, what is it?

Undergraduate Program Mission: To train students majoring in Chemistry and Biochemistry in the theory and practice of chemistry.

Graduate Program Mission: To provide graduate students with intellectual, experimental and professional skills to participate effectively as scientific professionals.

Please address all questions. What was the process of revising your mission statement this semester? How were department faculty members involved? Was it developed in department meetings or other gatherings? What informed your discussions about your new or revised mission statement (e.g. changes in the profession, new focus of the department)?

Both mission statements were identified to meet the requirement in previous program reviews that the department have mission statements. The revision to the mission statement was initiated as part of the annual assessment cycle. As part of this cycle, a little work was done to understand the purpose of a mission statement and the components of a good mission statement. It then became clear that we had a lot of room for improvement in our mission statements.

Phase I: In Spring 2016, the department engaged in an exercise to evaluate and revise our mission statement. A document that explained the purpose of a mission statement was sent to all tenured/tenure-track faculty and lecturers in the Department, along with the Department mission statement, the University mission statement and the College mission statement. An exercise to develop the mission statement was also sent to all tenured/tenure-track faculty and lecturers in the Department.

At a department meeting, those in attendance were asked to evaluate the department mission statement and evaluate what was missing. They were then asked to read the University and College missions statements and underline the phrases that aligned with the work they do in the Department. Finally, they were asked to evaluate what was missing in the University/College mission statement that pertains to work done in the Department. We also received feedback electronically from some people who were unable to attend the Department meeting.

Next, the attendees at the meeting were broken into small groups of 3-4 faculty to work on the exercise. The exercise asked groups to answer specific questions about:

• the educational purpose of the program (skills and knowledge)
• the types of activities and experiences provided by the program to facilitate learning
• why it’s important to deliver the educational purpose
• the population of students served by our program
• the educational goals of our students
• the signature approaches taken by faculty

The written responses were summarized and distributed electronically to tenured/tenure-track faculty and lecturers prior to Phase II.

Phase II: In Fall 2016, using the summaries from the exercise done in the Spring, attendees at a department meeting were given a mission statement template and asked to work in groups to complete the template. Written responses in each portion of the template were compiled into a summary and distributed electronically to tenured/tenure track faculty and lecturers prior to Phase III. At a second meeting in Fall 2016, the written summaries were reviewed and those in attendance ranked the statements in each portion of the mission statement template that they liked the best. The Chair was then tasked with writing a draft compilation mission statement. The draft compilation mission statement was shared with all tenured/tenure-track faculty and lecturers prior to the Phase III. Comments on the draft statement were requested, but none were received.

Phase III. At another Department meeting, the draft compilation mission statement was discussed line by line. Revisions were made. The revised mission statement was approved unanimously by all those in attendance. The approved mission statement was distributed to all tenured/tenure-track faculty and lecturers. Comments were requested. None were received.

What is the revised mission statement?

The mission of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is to educate SFSU students in the essential principles and practices of chemistry and biochemistry, and to inspire our students to reach their personal and professional goals as they become the next generation of scientists, scientific professionals and scientifically-literate individuals.

We are committed to providing access to scientific careers to students from all backgrounds. Instructors in our Department use a variety of classroom, guided inquiry and hands-on laboratory experiences to create a comprehensive approach to science education, supporting students as they gain the knowledge, proficiency, skills and confidence to be productive in a variety of chemistry, biochemistry and related careers. The faculty in our department are research-active and engage in the discovery of new knowledge. Our students have the opportunity to work alongside faculty on independent research projects to contribute to the discovery and communication of that knowledge.

We strive in all interactions between faculty, lecturers, students and staff to promote our core values—scholarship, critical thinking, open-mindedness, independence, scientific curiosity, ethics, collaboration, and diversity. Recognizing that our students are driven by a desire to help solve the many problems facing the world and to give back to their communities, we empower our students to engage as successful citizens in ethical applications of scientific skills and knowledge for the benefit of society.

Please post your revised mission statement on your department web page.

Given that this semester you revised your mission statement, DUEAP will assume your AY 2016-2017 will include a review of your program learning goals. If that is not the case, please notify the Associate Dean of Academic Planning. Thank you!