

SLO Convocation 2018
Mary Pape, Toño Ramirez, Veronica Avila

ICC Assessed:

CIVIC CAPACITY FOR GLOBAL, CULTURAL, SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Students will recognize their role as local, national, and global citizens. They will participate in a democratic process, respect social and cultural diversity, appreciate the complexity of the physical world, and understand the significance of both environmental sustainability and social justice.

SLO Statement:

Participants will be able to identify one new way to foster equity through assessments

Assessment Method:

Student Voices, a group of current Social Science students, will speak during the SLO Convocation lunchtime gathering. The Student Voices panel, which consists of six students from Social Science classes, will present unfiltered thoughts about life as a De Anza student. Students will be asked about problems they have encountered while attending De Anza, as well as what they see as most beneficial about attending the college.

Assessment Summary:

The panel resulted in a lively and candid discussion about life at De Anza. The first question regarding what they least enjoyed led to an intense discussion about sexual harassment, dealings with peace officers, safe spaces, and appropriate on campus services, such as Psychological Services. Students also reflected on what has worked for them, mainly emphasizing the important of building trusting relationships with faculty and staff.

Reflection:

Students' candor about sexual harassment, focusing on one particular faculty member who is no longer at De Anza, and their lack of feeling safe caused the SLO team and the Social Science faculty, who invited Student Voices, to think deeply about how best to build a physically and emotionally safe environment. Although the women panelists addressed above stated issues, the men were also in agreement with the lack of safety. The latter included dim or no lighting on campus and in parking lots, poor escort services, and slow police response.

Reflections from faculty were collected via a virtual “suggestion box” that was sent to all attendees.

Enhancement:

The Student Voices panel addressed serious campus issues, which led to a follow-up meeting initiated by Social Science faculty. The SLO team was invited to this meeting, and Mary Pape and Veronica Avila attended. Faculty discussed the need for students to feel safe in both reporting harassment incidences and in creating a physically safe space for women.

Faculty shared how impressed they were with students’ honesty and integrity as panelists. But students’ comments raised numerous questions about safety and security on campus. It seemed apparent that students were not aware of their resources, resources need improvement, and students were unaware of how to best use current resources. The other issue mentioned was that one panelist was only sixteen years of age. Her age raised concerns about how the campus accommodates and provides for minors.

The general consensus at this meeting was for the campus to provide knowledge about current resources, have a visible harassment policy, and adhere to title nine regulations. Suggestions, such as creating visible and accessible campus maps, encouraging buddy systems for students who feel unsafe walking to their vehicles, and working closely with peace officers to ensure safety outside of the classroom were discussed.

Furthermore, faculty discussed the need to examine current systems in place, such as campus lighting, blue lights, and emergency trainings to ensure these systems work, and to fix them if they do not currently function.

Faculty also discussed emotional and psychological services, such as the Jean Miller Resource Room, Psychological Services, and the Women’s Studies venue. But it was evident that these places demand more attention; students should know about these resources and faculty should be knowledgeable about them as well.

Faculty also recommended another follow-up meeting in which these panelists could also be included. This next meeting is currently schedule for March 22, 2018.