Core Curriculum Assessment Annual Report

General Information

1. Name / Number of Course / Sequence:  
   PHYS 1150: Astronomy

2. SLO(s) being assessed:  
   Student will understand and appreciate methods and issues of science and technology.

3. Department:  
   Physics

4. Department Representative:  
   Dr. Chin-Che Tin

5. AGSC Content Alignment:  
   AREA III: Science and Math

Assessment Information

6. Assessment Method: [Explain how assessment for the measures associated with this SLO – not grading for the course as a whole was conducted.]  
The department has identified the following assessment areas: homework problems, laboratory experiences, classroom interactive sessions and test questions. Faculty may elect to use any or all of these assessment areas to evaluate the effectiveness of their teaching. The faculty teaching PHYS 1150 used the final examination as the primary assessment tool. The questions satisfying the five measures for SLO-10 were included in the final examination and statistical data collected.

7. Findings: [What assessment data did each assessment method produce?]
Fall 2010:
% Average: 71

Spring 2011:
% Average: 69

8. How did you or will you use the findings for improvement: [What questions / issues/ concerns do your data raise for the faculty teaching the course? What discussion did the faculty have about the findings? What future actions to improve student attainment of this outcome will the department / program take as a result of this analysis?]

The data are consistent, and even better, than the typical test and examination data in our Introductory Physics courses. More data could have been collected.
The instructor will use more assessment questions to give a better measure of the different objectives within the Learning Outcomes.

9. Additional comments: [What else would you like the Committee to know about your assessment of this course or plans for the future?]
The main problem for us is in the choice of the questions to satisfy the different measures within SLO-10.

10. Core Curriculum General Education Committee Comments:
The Department might want to consider a larger group of questions from which to draw conclusions about student learning. Five questions on a final exam do not tell very much, and the questions for measures 1 and 4 don't clearly relate to the measure. Moving forward, the Department should focus on developing a clear plan for constructing an assessment plan that focuses on both the process of using the data from the assessment process to improve student achievement of the SLOs and into reporting that process clearly.