



FEBRUARY 4, 2023

TO: MAZEN HAMAD, CHAIR OF CHEMISTRY
FROM: SERI LUANGPHINITH, ALO *Seri Luangphinit*
SUBJECT: REVIEW OF CHEMISTRY SELF-STUDY
CC: BRIAN WISSMAN, INTERIM DEAN OF CNHS
KRIS RONEY, VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
MATTHEW PLATZ, DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

The ALO would first like to thank both Dr. Mazen Hamad and Dr. Matthew Platz for working on this self-study. As ALO, I appreciated the opportunity to support the faculty through process.

Per UH Hilo's revised Program Review Guidelines, the ALO "reviews the self-study for compliance with WSCUC standards of accreditation, namely that programs are undertaking regular (yearly) assessment of both core competencies and programmatic learning objectives. The ALO should review past self-studies and compare them against the most recent program review for progress. In particular, attention is needed to ensure SLOs, PLOs, curriculum matrices, and other elements of ideal practice in assessment are acted upon and that the data is used to 'close the loop' in terms of improving student learning" (pp. 4-5). What follows is my assessment of the current self-study based on this charge.

The 2022-2023 self-study represents a marked improvement from the [2015 Self Study](#), which included a passing reference to standardized tests (see page 6) but no mention of the data from core competency assessment which dates to 2013. Since that time, the department has regularly participated in several rounds of [core competency assessment](#). All of this data is now featured in the 2022-2023 self-study which represents a marked change from 2015. By working with the ALO, Dr. Platz has demonstrated how data from ENG 100 and lower division chemistry courses) can be used to make informed decisions on curriculum—the example provided in the self-study (pp. 50 to 55) is a perfect example of longitudinal thinking and scaffolding that WSCUC likes to see in "closing the loop."

Given this context, I will venture two recommendations that the department needs to undertake in the immediate future: (1) that more faculty take initiative in participating more regularly in undergraduate core competency assessment while ensuring that the data leads to curricular or instructional improvement, and (2) programmatic assessment based on the materials submitted to WSCUC needs to be faculty driven, not ALO-driven. Given the [recommendations](#) that were made by the Commission on July 11, 2022, it will be imperative for all programs to start showing a regular commitment to engage in program specific assessment while continuing core competency measurements.

The 2022-2023 self-study is a solid first step in this process. I look forward to seeing the progress of the department in 2028.

