

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number      9313S

Date of Senate Approval      05/02/13

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action

**IDC 3:                      Proposal to Reorganize the University Student Learning Outcomes**

*Summary:* The proposal reorganizes the University Student Learning Outcomes (USLOs) into two areas: 1) the development of human capabilities; 2) the acquisition of lifelong learning skills and the application of these skills to real-world scenarios and practical situations. Outcome 1 (below) describes the means by which students develop capabilities; Outcome 2 articulates the lifelong learning skills we value and lists ways that students apply these skills. This reorganization preserves the focus of our current USLOs; no new emphases are proposed.

*Background:* The first draft of this proposed reorganization was submitted to and discussed in Faculty Senate in fall 2012. It was distributed to department chairs and program directors with a request to discuss the proposal with their faculty and staff. A second draft incorporated feedback and suggestions received through that process and from Faculty Senate members. A third draft added an introductory sentence suggested by conversations between UNC Asheville Director of Assessment Lisa Friedenberg and Faculty Senate Chair Melissa Burchard. The Senate then tasked IDC with developing a fourth draft to capture further input, most notably the inclusion of Outcome 1 below, which addresses disciplinary knowledge.

*Rationale:* Dr. Friedenberg crafted this reorganization in consultation with the Institutional Development Committee. The initial conceptualizations of the USLOs were intended to be re-evaluated upon the completion of several assessment cycles, which have now taken place. This reorganization reframes our USLOs by clarifying what UNC Asheville values and placing the central focus of the USLOs on the acquisition of lifelong learning skills and their application.

Outcome 1: Students develop and use intellectual capabilities.

- Knowledge of a Discipline, Specialization, or Area of Study
- Connections among Disciplines and among Peoples and Cultures
- Application of Knowledge to New Settings
- Creative Solutions to Increasingly Complex Problems

Outcome 2: Students acquire and apply lifelong learning skills.

- Critical Thinking
- Inquiry from a Range of Perspectives
- Effective Communication and Expression
- Civic Engagement—Local and Global
- Ethical Reasoning and Action
- The Practice of Sustainability