# Implementing Learning Outcomes in a Post-Secondary Institution

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### The Central Challenge: Faculty Resistance

- Cynicism
- vs Accountability
- Ignorance
- Fear that they will become labourers producing a product
- Loss of academic freedom



# How might an institution develop Learning Outcomes and get buy-in from faculty?



## Engaging in a Learning Outcomes Exercise University Outcomes Exercise

Bottom Up 🗸
Not
Top Down 🗰

## Engaging in a Learning Outcomes Exercise University Outcomes Exercise

# Need to be clear on what and why

### Learning Outcomes are:

The abilities, skills, or knowledge students can demonstrate they possess upon completion of a course or program or upon graduation.



### Why?

#### 3 Sources:

Bologna Process
 (student & labour mobility)



- 2) Quality Assurance& Accountability
- 3) Pedagogical --Stress this one



### Pedagogical



"From Teaching to Learning: A

New Paradigm for Undergraduate

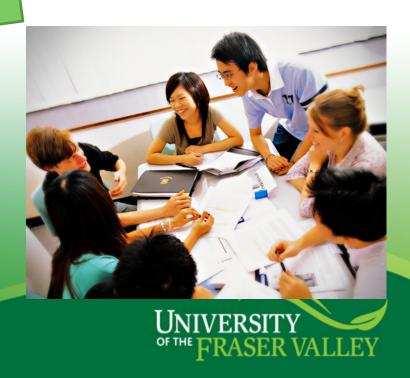
Education" Robert B. Barr and John

Tagg (1995)



#### Faculty teaching

### Student learning



## Strategic and educational reasons for engaging in a Learning Outcomes exercise:

- strengthen undergraduate
   education by improving the quality
   and real-world relevance of student
   learning
- communicate with policy makers, families, and other stakeholders



# Begin by establishing Institutional Learning Outcomes



**Institutional Learning** Outcomes (ILOs) are the abilities that all graduates of an institution can demonstrate that they possess



Institutional Learning
Outcomes (ILOs) allow focus
on undergraduate education
writ large

This focus includes the integration of everything that students do—in and out of class



#### ILOs:

- Emphasis on the overall student experience.
- Integration of service areas with academic areas in a shared mission.



## Staff and support units are a key ally!



UFV Institutional Learning Outcomes were the product of a collective and democratic year-long exercise.



### Provost's Forum, September 2011 2 messages

1st

ILOs our way of doing Quality Assurance on our own terms as educators and students before the government does it to us



#### 2nd

Year-long conversation about what matters most to us as educators: student learning

An expression of our identity, a visioning exercise

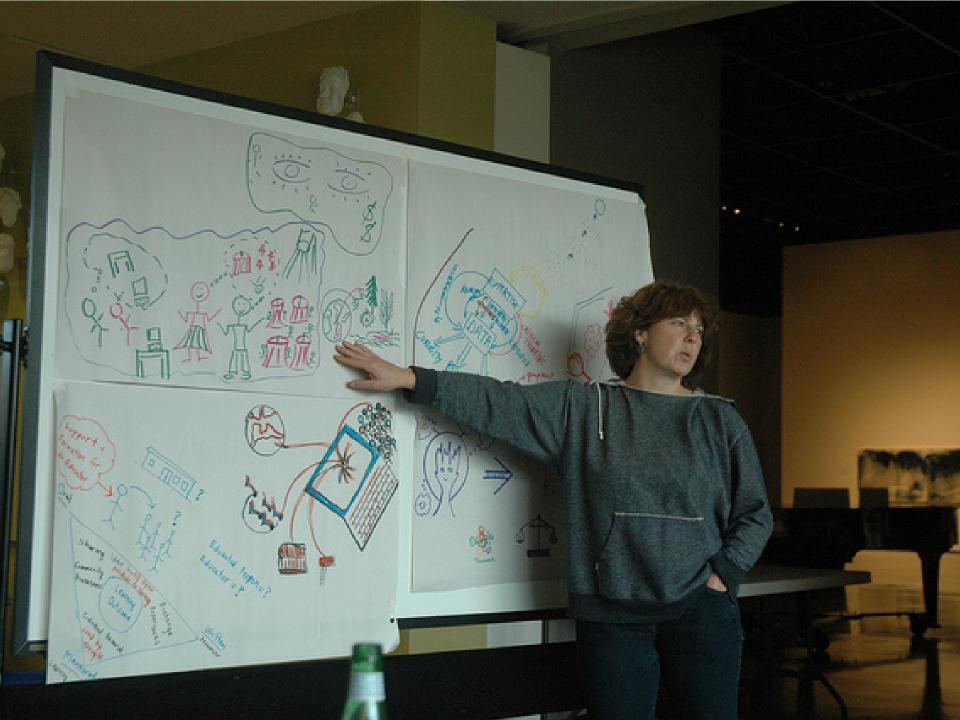


### Action Plan:

- Teaching and Learning Advisory Council facilitates process
- Blog
- Faculty, staff, student, and community discussions, forums, charettes









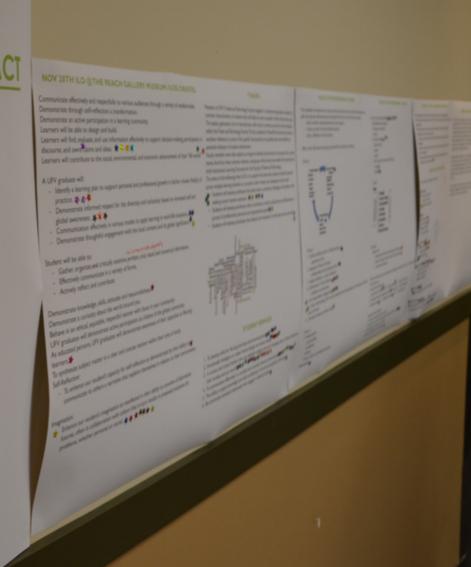
• January deadline for suggested ILOs from departments and units

• February: Interactive Charette



### MAKING SENSE OF THE ABSTRACT

On the following pages, including the plinths, submitted but not finalized, institutional learning outcomes (ILO) are presented by each department and activity.





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To have curiosity and the desire to contribute positively and meaningfully to the communities they find themselves in that \* results in reflective practice and a commitment to lifelong learning.





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# One faculty member takes all submissions and creates a synthesis draft:

· available on the blog and at numerous meetings



### March-April:

Discussed at Provost's Forum

 All of UFV had the opportunity to send in revisions to the draft ILOs



### May 1 PD Day:

• 152 participants attended a UFV-wide professional development day



 At the end of the day a penultimate draft was created by four volunteer editors

 Presented their final version of 9 ILOs at the Teaching and Learning Advisory Council on May 18, 2012

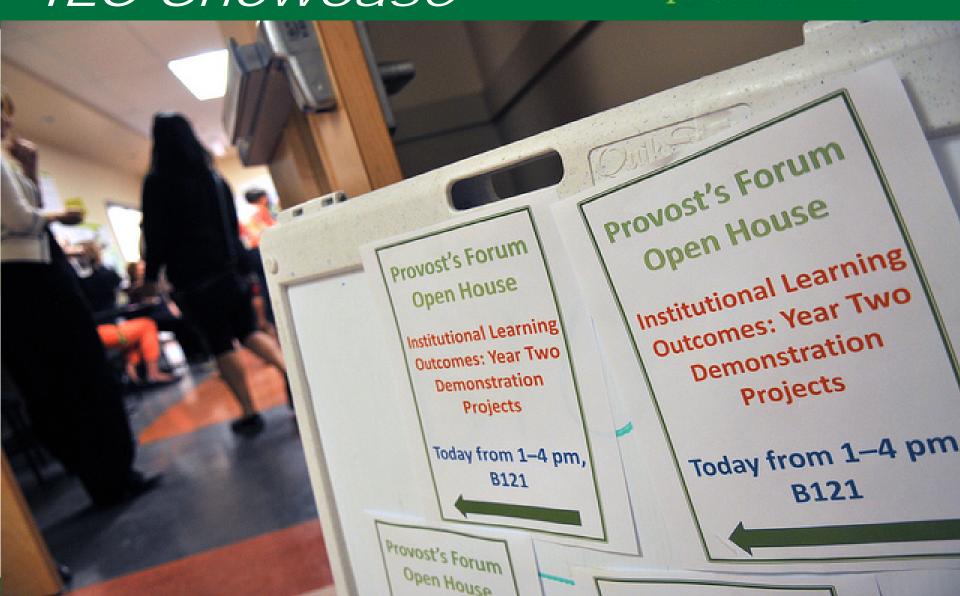


In September 2012, the UFV Senate approved the UFV statement of Institutional Learning Outcomes



### YEAR 2 ILO Showcase







EARS

### ILO Showcase









#### Biology



- A) Access and use biological knowledge in order to interpret and engage in discussions on contemporary biological and social issues on a regional and global scale. 1, 4, 9
- B) Foster critical thinking to analyze, interpret, integrate, and critique the existing and emerging body of biological knowledge in both independent and collaborative settings. 2, 6, 7

## HALQ'EMÉYLEM INTERMEDIATE PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATEUNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

- 9. Contribute regionally and globally
  - Demonstrate understanding of how the Halq'eméylem language expresses the Stó: lō way of learning and relating to the world.

#### YEAR 3



- Aligning Course Learning
   Outcomes with Program Learning
   Outcomes
- Begin discussions with School Districts about aligning their learning outcomes with ours

### Some Lessons:

- Need Provost front and centre, but hands-off; give power to institution
- Have an expert or experts you can rely on
- Align process with your institution's culture (at UFV=bottom-up)
- Involve the whole institution: gives buy-in, critical mass, momentum
- Make the process about student learning



