

## **Focus Group Script and Questions:**

### **Introduction:**

*Faculty Member A: Thanks for taking the time to meet with us today.*

*You have been identified by the RPTA faculty as a student who has been involved with co-curricular activities relating to our major – for example – participating with the RPTA Club, Rho Phi Lambda, a CPRS Conference, a professional development trip, the RPTA newsletter, etc.*

*As a department, we are in the process of conducting a self-study. A portion of this self-study provides our department with the opportunity to assess the learning outcomes for our students.*

*We have decided it would be valuable to conduct today's focus group and to hear from all of you as we ask you to reflect on whether or not your co-curricular experiences have been valuable to your development as students.*

*What we learn from talking with you will assist our department as we strive to make decisions about future resources and opportunities for students.*

*We will be taking some notes to keep track of what you say today – but, everything you share with us will be confidential – meaning we won't be attaching your name to anything that you say.*

*Do you have any questions before we get started? Introduce Jeff and Marni as facilitators.*

### **General Questions related to Co-Curricular Activities through RPTA**

Let's Begin - Facilitated by Dr. Jeff Jacobs

- 1) Let's go around the room – please quickly share your name and your anticipated career.
- 2) In your opinion – what makes a learning experience valuable?
- 3) Up to this point – what has been your most valuable learning experience at Cal Poly?
- 4) How would your Cal Poly RPTA experience be different if there were no co-curricular activities or opportunities?
- 5) What would you share with an incoming RPTA student next fall about RPTA co-curricular activities?

- 6) Are there certain concepts or objectives that are enhanced or more easily understood through involvement in co-curricular activities versus a classroom setting?
- 7) How do you think your co-curricular involvement will be judged by potential employers?

*Note (off-script). These first seven questions have been general in nature but with an expressed intent to elicit general thoughts and feelings on the learning outcomes associated with co-curricular activities offered through RPTA.*

### **Specific Questions related to Co-Curricular Activities through RPTA**

*Note (off-script). Based on whether or not the general questions elicited responses aligned with the Council on Accreditation standards and university learning objectives, focus group attendees will be asked more specific questions (as needed) trying to ascertain whether or not students feel that any or all of these standards/objectives are developed through co-curricular activities.*

*Faculty Member B - Cal Poly has a list of University Learning Objectives. We'd like you to reflect on whether or not participation in co-curricular activities has helped to foster your attainment of these learning objectives. We'd like to highlight the importance of you answering these questions honestly rather than telling us what you think we want to hear.*

Let's Continue - (decide on questions based on answers to 1-7)

- 8) In thinking about your preparation to be a professional in our field, what role has participation in co-curricular activities played in helping apply knowledge from the classroom to ethical decision-making in the working world?
- 9) Please share some reflection on whether or not participation in co-curricular activities has helped you to think more critically and creatively.
- 10) Please share some reflection on whether or not participation in co-curricular activities has helped you to communicate more effectively.
- 11) Please share some reflection on whether or not participation in co-curricular activities has helped you in working independently on projects.
- 12) Please share some reflection on whether or not participation in co-curricular activities has helped you in working collaboratively in groups on projects?
- 13) Please share some reflection on whether or not participation in co-curricular activities has helped you to have respect for diversity.

- 14) Please share some reflection on whether or not participation in co-curricular activities has helped raise your awareness of issues related to sustainability?
- 15) Please share some reflection on whether or not participation in co-curricular activities has helped to enhance your commitment to lifelong learning.