With regard to Recommendation 2, the Commission is concerned that Cuesta College has not sustained the momentum noted by the visiting team in April 2008 and needs to increase its efforts and fully meet all parts of Standard 1.b.

The team found the college to have developed a college planning and resource allocation model called the Cuesta College Planning and Funding Allocation Cycle. While the model clearly stipulates the planning and funding cycle, including SLOs assessment, institutional, annual and comprehensive program reviews; the model is absent of the strategic plan and the education master plan. This seems to be primarily due to the fact that the college is in a two year strategic planning phase and the strategic plan will not be completed until June 2010.

The team was able to validate the planning and funding allocation process as well as the program review templates. However, without a completed strategic plan, the planning and funding process is not linked to any broader institutional planning or direction. The college has not implemented the recommendation and resolved the deficiency.

Recommendation 3: Student Learning Outcomes

To meet standards, the team recommends that the college ensure that student learning outcomes are fully institutionalized as a core element of college operations, with specific focus on curriculum, program development, libraries and on-line resources. Additionally, it is recommended that the college develop a policy for program discontinuance and a policy for academic freedom. (Standard II.A.1, II.A.1.c, II. A. 2, II. A. 2.e, II.A.2.f, II.A. 6.b, II. A. 7, II. C. 1.b, II.C.1.c, II.C. 2).

The college has made some limited progress with this recommendation, but still lacks a faculty SLO liaison. The team confirmed that SLOs, when they are stated to exist, are a part of all program planning and program reviews. There is also stated assessment of the SLOs to validate allocation of resources. Further, there are some program and course level SLOs and the assessment results are linked to program goals. However, the information regarding the extent to which SLOs for courses and programs have been defined and data are collected is based on self reported responses to a survey administered by the Office of Institutional Research. The statements regarding the number and percentage of courses with SLOs are all based on the results of the Annual Program Planning Worksheet (APPW) and the results of the survey, which had a low response rate. There is no system that actually captures the SLOs and the data assumed to be collected that can be verified.

The information from the assessment results is stated as driving program improvement planning and validating future staffing and other funding needs. However, documentation of evidence for the statements could not be verified and was not available at the time of the visit. The college has not implemented the recommendation and resolved the deficiency.