

To: Faculty Senate
From: Prof. Duttlinger
Director of Accreditation and Assessment
Date: November 14, 2008

Report of the HLC Self Study Team

Introduction

The Self Study Team has been meeting regularly since March. The committee is made up of thirty-three administrators, faculty, staff and students representing all parts of the campus community. In the spring semester, the committee was involved with learning about the accreditation process, acquiring the knowledge and information necessary to prepare the campus Self Study and developing plans and timelines leading up to the 2010-2011 comprehensive visit. The committee has met twice in the fall semester, September and October.

Current Activities

During the October meeting, the committee members were directed to choose which chapter they would like to work on for the early activities in preparation for the Self Study. There are seven chapters involved. They are:

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| 1. Challenges from the 2001 visit | Chair: Prof. Duttlinger |
| 2. Criteria 1 Mission and Integrity | Chair: Prof. Asteriadis |
| 3. Criteria 2 Preparing for the Future | Chair: VC Schmid |
| 4. Criteria 3 Student Learning
and Effective Teaching | Chair: Dean Morrow |
| 5. Criteria 4 Acquisition, Discovery, and
Application of Knowledge | Chair: Prof. Pratt |
| 6. Criteria 5 Engagement and Service | Co-chairs: Prof. Roberts and
Prof. Smithson |
| 7. Change of Status from BA/BS to MA/MS | Chair: Prof. Hengst |

The charge to these committees was presented. Each committee is to review all the Core Components and Examples of Evidence within their criteria, or answer the challenges or questions in the other chapters. The committees should then determine what documentation is available on campus and what material is needed to best answer the topics raised by the HLC. Each committee was directed to develop a list of necessary documentation that may not be readily accessible and present it at the December meeting. Committees were encouraged to find additional members by drawing on the expertise of the campus community. All volunteers are appreciated.

Dates for the HLC Visit

The HLC recently asked us for a set of possible dates for the comprehensive visit that would not coincide with vacations or other major campus activities. The 2010-2011 academic year will be known as the "Year of Accreditation"! Not only are we facing the HLC visit, we are also having the NLN and NCATE visits for our Nursing and Education programs. I discussed the date issues with Profs. Hayes and Fontaine and reviewed this information with VC Schmid and Prof. Asteriadis. These are the dates I sent in:

April 18-19-20, 2011 First choice
November 15-16-17, 2010 Fall semester choice (required by HLC)
March 28-29-30, 2011 Spring semester choice (required by HLC)

Hopefully, these choices will leave the first part of the Fall 2010 semester free for the NLN visit and the first part of the Spring 2011 semester free for NCATE. I also indicated that we were having multiple visits that year and would appreciate consideration and that we would be allowed to have the late April dates. HLC should notify us by the end of the academic year of our official dates. Then the countdown can begin!

HLC also asked if our institution planned on embedding anything within the Self Study. I responded that we would embed a request for a change of Affiliation Status from a bachelors granting to masters granting institution and may seek approval for offering degree programs on-line. Prior Commission approval is required before an on-line degree can be offered by an HLC institution.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the HLC Self Study Team is November 21, 2008 at 1:00 in TECH 109. All are welcome!

Contact Information

If there are any questions or concerns about this report or the work of the Self Study Team, please feel free to contact me at X5217 or dutt@pnc.edu.