

Tuesday Tidbits

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

(My apologies for not sending out Tuesday Tidbits the past few weeks.)

So, what's happening in the HLC arena? Are we on schedule?

I am happy to report that we are! The various criteria committees are involved with writing a draft of their chapters and I am gathering information for the chapters I am working with.

Does HLC want us to do anything specific right now?

Yes! A few weeks ago we got a notice from the Higher Learning Commission that it was time for us to tell them what we wanted to see in our Visiting Team. I withheld my first inclination to say "206 bones and a standard set of internal organs" and listed the following:

1. Team members from a regional campus in a multi campus public institution. (This makes sense and is always the first thing we list.)
2. Team members who have experience with campuses that have had many changes in a short amount of time. (See the next question!)
3. A team member that has a background in an MBA program. (Since we are asking to change to the Masters level and we are using the MBA program as our Masters program, this was also obvious.)
4. Team members who have had experience with the new HLC Criteria and the budgetary information necessary for accreditation. (This is new territory for all institutions since the Criteria were revised.)
5. We also asked for any team members with experience in such areas as dual credit or experience in prison education programs etc.

The HLC usually asks for this information about 549 days away from the visit.

Why the request for "those with experience on campuses with many changes in a short amount of time" Does that really describe PNC?

Consider that the HLC has not been here since 2001. In that time we have gone from academically non-autonomous to autonomous gained the buildings and expanded the offerings in Valparaiso restructured the academic administration to include four deans

added positions and sports/clubs for students in athletics and activities
added several honorary societies for students based on majors and GPA's
gone from six bachelors degrees to nineteen! (WOW !!!)
made major changes in faculty governance to include curricular control
increased our capacity for graduate courses
started offering the MBA in conjunction with the Purdue Graduate School
joined the HLC Academy for Assessment of Student Learning
watched the apartments across the street blossom
completed one strategic plan and wrote a second one
finished remodeling the basement of LSF
grown from 3493 students to 4463 students - a 28% increase
AND if you look in the 2000-2002 Catalog, at the Faculty list in the
back, you will find 88 names of non retired professors. Of those 88,
41 are no longer here.

Whew! That's more than enough. Yeah, we've had some major changes in less than ten years. This is bound to show up in our Self Study and our Team Visit.

Anything else to keep an eye on?

The West Lafayette campus is hosting an HLC Team in March and their Self Study is online for your reading pleasure. You are encouraged to take a peek and see what our friends to the south are doing for their visit.

Enjoy!

www.purdue.edu/accreditation.

When is our visit?

537 days from today – October 27, 2009. The HLC Team arrives on April 18, 2011.

In five thirty seven, they'll all be here.

We will be ready and have nothing to fear!

Tuesday Tidbits is a way to provide information about the upcoming accreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission to the Purdue North Central Campus. Since the visiting team is interested in ALL aspects of the campus and its operation, this is being sent to all employees. If you have any questions about the accreditation process, or ideas for future Tidbits, please let me know.

Thanks!

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