

## **Tuesday Tidbits**

### **Tuesday, October 6, 2009**

***Is there any connection between HLC visits? The last one was in either 2001 or 2003. Lots have happened between those dates and now.***

First, we had a visit in BOTH 2003 and 2001. In 2001, we had our last comprehensive visit that had six visitors on the HLC Team and we did a full Self Study and they were here for three days. In 2003, we had a Focused Visit with a team of three for two days and a shorter, focused self study. The focus was on our bachelor's degree programs. In 2001 we were approved to become a bachelor's degree granting institution and the HLC ALWAYS returns in three years after such a request to make sure we were still offering the degrees. There was also an autonomy situation we had to report on.

Both visits went well and we are now fully accredited at the bachelor's level.

Second, yes, there is a connection. At the end of both visits, the HLC Team wrote in their report "Challenges" we need to address. There is a chapter in every Self Study where we address those specific challenges to show that we didn't ignore them and, hopefully, have made progress in their solution.

***Okay, what Challenges do we need to address?***

The challenges from both 2001 and 2003 must be addressed. Not surprisingly, the two lists are almost identical and covered the same topics. These topics are:

1. ***Campus life for students*** Back in 2001 the basement of the LSF building was being remodeled when the HLC Team was here. We had no varsity sports for women etc. This challenge is answered by looking at people, places and things. Keri Marrs Barron is working on our answer to this and she has an impressive list of changes.
2. ***Curriculum and Strategic Planning*** This is an autonomy questions raised by the 2001 HLC Team. They wanted assurances that the faculty had curricular control and fully participated in the campus strategic plan. This is a "no brainer" so I'm writing it. I can site quite a few documents to show that this is no longer an issue.
3. ***Assessment*** This topic was raised from two directions. We need to show that academic program assessment is part of the campus plans and all programs are covered. We also need to show how we do assessment across programs – particularly in general education. Deb Pratt has agreed to help gather information for this topic.

4. ***Institutional Research*** HLC is always interested in how a campus gets information that can be used for better assessment and what the data resources are. Remember all those surveys I encourage you to read? That's part of it. Shirley Keeton, Madonna Tritle and I will put our heads together to answer this one.

5 ***Diversity and Global Society*** Remember, back in 2001 we didn't have as much going on in an international sense as we do now. Ken Kincaid is collecting evidence to answer this challenge. This includes everything from the Brown Bag Series, to the international travel for credit we have sponsored.

6. ***Full time to Part time Instructional staff ratios*** The data used in this challenge are provided every year. Unfortunately, the ratio is not where we all want it to be. There are many reasons and they need to be explained. I'm doing this one too.

7. ***Library Holdings*** The question is, do we have the appropriate Library resources to support our degree programs? These resources would include volumes, periodicals, software, resource centers, search engines, e-journals, websites, online references etc. K.R. Johnson is the expert on this material.

8. ***Adequate Support*** The 2003 HLC Team had several concerns under this heading. Those concerns were around adequate financial support, facilities, equipment and instrumentation. I am spearheading a small group to answer this challenge.

(If you have any information that might help with these challenges, please let the appropriate person listed above know. Thanks for the help!)

### ***When is the visit?***

558 days from today – October 5, 2009. The HLC Team arrives on April 18, 2011.

Calendars move at a steady rate ...

And, HLC comes in five-five eight.

*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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