

Tuesday Tidbits
Tuesday, November 16, 2010
Training Topics

Last week the Higher Learning Commission held several training sessions. Vice Chancellor Karen Schmid attended the first one for current Consultant Evaluators. The second one was for those wishing to become Consultant Evaluators and Chancellor Dworkin and I attended that one. As expected, quite a bit of information was given out and is the general topic of today's Tidbit.

When will we know who will be on our Consultant Evaluator Team?

I talked to the staff member that organizes and notifies teams. She told me we would know about eight weeks in advance of our visit. Let's see, the visit is on April 18 and eight weeks prior to that would be ...February 14 – Valentine's Day! When I looked surprised at her answer (6 months prior was the goal in the past) she explained that she was having a difficult time putting teams together. It seems that everyone in higher education is pretty busy – that I could readily agree with!

Hey! You just went to a training session for new Consultant Evaluators. Would any of them be eligible for our team? Don't we know ANY of them yet? How does that work?

Yes and Yes. Newly appointed C-Es are eligible for assignment. So, we may indeed get a C-E on a first visit. However, none of the ones from Indiana will be eligible for our Team. The HLC does not assign C-Es to an institution in their home state.

How do we get a Team? Our HLC liaison, Dr. Appleton, is the primary selector. He knows what areas he wants covered, what challenges we had last time, what changes we are seeking etc. We will need one evaluator who has ...

experience in a graduate level business program and one who has
experience in nursing – preferably online and one who has
experience in student life – a major PNC challenge in 2001

Those three backgrounds for sure and there is ALWAYS someone with extensive experience in Assessment and usually one who knows the ins and outs of General Education and a college president or chancellor. Dr. Appleton has told us we will have a team of six.

We were given a list of five names several months ago. The institution has the first right of refusal. We look for people who might have a conflict of interest with PNC – think someone who applied for a job here and didn't get it etc. The names we got were all acceptable and when they notified the individuals, two could not make the dates. So, we now have three for sure and need three more. Until we have all six names and the C-Es agree to come, we are not at liberty to share the names of any of them.

When we get the names and assurances of attendance, you will know too.

What about our consultant? Could he be one of our C-Es? When do we get the Self Study draft back?

VC Schmid actually talked to Dr. Timothy Schibik at the first training session. He is a long time CE and since he is from Indiana – even if he is five hours away – he would not be considered for a PNC Team.

She asked him about our Self Study and he apologized for taking so long. He had an HLC Team visit in early October and he was the Team Chair. He has been busy getting the HLC Team report completed for the campus they visited. However, he said he has been reading ours, was pleased with what he saw and has some corrections and comments to share. Basically, the Self Study should be back in our hands in the near future.

What else did you learn?

LOTS!!! It was nice to hear that we are doing many things right! PNC is ahead of many when it comes to the online degree requirements, federal compliance chapter and any number of other topics. Taking C-E training in the middle of writing a Self Study does have its advantages! I also learned that a few things have changed since our last comprehensive visit in 2001.

1. On Sunday, April 17, the Team prefers to dine as a Team. In previous visits, the Sunday dinner was hosted by the institution and gave both sides a chance to meet. That has changed – minor to be sure but a change.

2. In 2001, PNC arranged their transportation with a campus van and did the pick up and return trips to the airport. Now, the Teams prefer to handle their own transportation requirements. Again, a minor change but one we need to know.

As additional information becomes available, I will be sure to share it with all of you.

Poetry please ...

Whatever we think and whatever we do ...

The Team will be here – no matter what – in 1 – 5 – 2.

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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