

Tuesday Tidbits

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

What are the Criteria we have to meet? Better yet, what do they mean to us?

There are five criteria we need to address. Each one is split into Core Components and each Core Component has a list of Examples of Evidence we need to refer to. We may also add our own Examples of Evidence that make sense for our institution.

Specifically, what is Criterion One?

Criterion One: Mission and Integrity

The organization operates with integrity to ensure the fulfillment of its mission through structures and processes that involve the Board, administration, faculty, staff and students.

This means we show that we have the Board of Trustees that operate with a given set of bylaws and with the approval of the State of Indiana. We show our many structures (organizational charts etc.) and processes (how we do things). We also show that all parts of the campus are involved. This could be APSAC, CSSAC, Faculty Senate, Student Government etc.

Criterion Two?

Criterion Two: Preparing for the Future

The organization's allocation of resources and processes for evaluation and planning demonstrate its capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its education, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

When you read this, think Strategic Plan. This is the Criterion that focuses on the future. If we are viable today, will we be viable tomorrow? Next year? How do we know? The Core Components in this Criterion ask about realistically preparing for the future, maintaining and strengthening the quality of our offerings in the future, evaluating our processes and overall alignment with the mission of the institution.

Criterion Three?

Criterion Three: Student Learning and Effective Teaching

The organization provides evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission

This one is exactly what it says – are the students actually learning something and are we fulfilling our educational mission?

Criterion Four?

Criterion Four: Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of knowledge

The organization promotes a life of learning for its faculty, administration, staff and students by fostering and supporting inquiry, creativity, practice, and social responsibility in ways consistent with its mission.

Some read this and think only of “research”. It is much more! How do we assess our curriculum for students that will live in a globally diverse society? There are three main phrases in the Criterion – Acquisition of Knowledge, Discovery of Knowledge and Application of Knowledge. We will show how we do ALL of it.

Criterion Five?

Criterion Five: Engagement and Service

As called for by its mission, the organization identifies its constituencies and serves them in ways both value.

Welcome to the world of Service Learning! We just can't be here for ourselves. We need to interact with the communities in our area too.

When is our visit?

502 days from today – Dec. 1, 2009. The HLC Team arrives on April 18, 2011.

We're all in this together – and that means YOU!

The team will be here in five – oh – two.

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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