

Tuesday Tidbits
February 17, 2009

I keep hearing about a Self Study. What is it and where can I see one?

A Self Study is both a noun – a document that covers the many topics of the HLC in a format that shows that the institution really did “study itself” – and a verb – the actions of the HLC initiated visiting team when they come to conduct a Self Study. Let’s discuss the document part. Right now there are a number of committees that are working on “studying PNC itself” so we can write an acceptable self study.

And, where can I find one that was acceptable? Is the one from 2001 available?

Second question first. The 2001 PNC Self Study is available in any number of offices here at PNC and the campus library. It comes in three booklets. The main one is 191 pages long, the second is the Basic Institutional Data report and there was an Executive Summary. Since we did all that, the HLC has totally changed our reporting procedure – Basic Institutional Data is now required every year instead of every comprehensive visit – and rearranged the material in the Self Study by rewriting the Criteria. So, yes, it is available but no, it won’t help us too much this time around.

Any campus that has had a successful visit in the past four years probably has an acceptable self study. I recommend the University of Southern Indiana Self Study from 2006. And, before you all e-mail me asking for it - <http://www.usi.edu/hlc2006/> - yes, it is available on line. USI had a very successful visit and I have found their Self Study document to be a nice example of how to get things written and explained. There are some similarities between the two institutions that help as well.

What exactly goes into a Self Study Document?

There will be eight chapters in our Self Study document. They are:

- I. Answers to the Challenges presented by the 2001 Visiting Team
- II. Criteria I Mission and Integrity
- III Criteria 2 Preparing for the Future
- IV Criteria 3 Student Learning and Effective Teaching
- V Criteria 4 Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge
- VI Criteria 5 Engagement and Service
- VII Federal Compliance Chapter
- VIII Change of Status Request - from a Bachelors granting Institution
to a Masters granting institution

I see a topic there that interests me. How can I get more involved?

(Wait a minute! I'm already pretty busy. I don't want to write a whole chapter!)

To get more involved (welcome!) you can either contact Professor Linda Duttlinger (SWRZ 40, X 5217) or contact the committee chairs. There are five committees currently collecting information so that the chapters can be written.

Criteria 1 and 2 are co-chaired by Professor George Asteriadis (X5201) and
Dean of Science Keith Schwingendorf (X5735)

Criteria 3 and 4 are co-chaired by Dean of Liberal Arts Rex Morrow (X5680) and
Professor David Pratt (X5578)

Criteria 5 is co-chaired by Professor Cindy Roberts (X5219) and
Professor Scott Smithson (X 5356)

Challenges from 2001 is chaired by Professor Duttlinger (X5217)

Change of Status Request is chaired by Prof. Judy Serwatka (X5445)

Professor Duttlinger also writes the Compliance chapter but that is quite brief and there is no committee for it.

And, no, you won't have to write a whole chapter. Within each Criteria are four or five Core Components and under each Core Component are a list of Examples of Evidence. Different people are working on different Core Components. If you would like additional information, contact Professor Duttlinger or any of the chairs listed above. There are copies of the Criteria on the HLC homepage - <http://www.ncacihe.org/> - look under Handbook for Accreditation. You want chapter three.

In the Challenge chapter and the Change of Status chapters, there are specific topics that need to be covered or questions that need to be answered. Again, please contact the chairs for additional information.

When is the visit?

789 days from today – February 17, 2009

In 789, we'll all be fine!

We'll give a cheer when the Team is HERE!

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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