

Tuesday Tidbits
Tuesday, February 2, 2010

<p>CRITERION FOUR Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge</p>
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What is in Criterion Four?

Criterion Four is the Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge. The Criterion statement supplied by the Higher Learning Commission is more descriptive. It states:

“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.”

Many people read into that definition and declare that this is the “research” criterion. In many ways it is but there is much more to it than just that.

What are the Core Components and what are they asking us for?

Core Component One – PNC demonstrates, through the actions of its board, administrators, students, faculty, and staff, that it values a life of learning. The examples of evidence have phrases like “freedom of inquiry” “promoting a life of learning”, professional development opportunities”, and “public acknowledgement of achievements.”

Core Component Two - PNC demonstrates that acquisition of a breadth of knowledge and skills and the exercise of intellectual inquiry are integral to its educational programs. This is referred to as the general Education Core Component. It also looks at the relationship between curricular and co-curricular activities. Learning outcomes are also measured in this area as related to graduating students. Here is where the actual assessment data is found.

Core Component Three – PNC assesses the usefulness of its curricula to students who will live and work in a global, diverse, and technological society.

Are the programs offered at PNC relevant and current? Do our learning goals include the competencies necessary to succeed in a diverse workforce? Are the curricular programs evaluated by constituencies other than faculty? Do we expect our students to become independent learners? What are our goals in promoting social responsibility?

Core Component Four – PNC provides support to ensure that faculty, students, and staff acquire, discover, and apply knowledge responsibly.

Our campus should be contributing to the development of student skills and attitudes fundamental to the responsible use of knowledge. (Does it?) PNC has explicit policies to ensure ethical conduct in research. (Do we have those?) Our students and faculty see a relationship between the responsible use of knowledge and social responsibility. (Do they?) Then there is the whole area of intellectual property rights.

When is this going to be presented?

On Friday, February 5 from noon to 1:00 in LSF 2, the writing team for Criterion Four is going to present their current draft. This draft is now available on the “S” drive under the HLC – Self Study folder, Criterion Four. Please read it over and come to the presentation. All are welcome.

When is our visit?

439 days from today – Feb. 2, 2010. The HLC Team arrives on April 18, 2011.

*Things are really going fine!
And they'll be here in four-thirty-nine!*

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!

Linda Duttlinger
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