

Tuesday Tidbits
February 24, 2009

I've heard that we want to officially move from a Bachelors granting institution to a Master granting institution. Since when did PNC get the idea it was a Masters granting institution?

Thanks to Alice Yacullo in the Registrar's office, we can give a reasonably official answer. This campus awarded the MA in Elementary Education to five students on June 10, 1969. It's quite possible we actually awarded those degrees even sooner but our records only go back so far. We know that we had 218 graduate students in that program in Fall 1975. The program was offered through the West Lafayette program and followed their curriculum. On May 14, 2007 twelve graduates were listed in our graduation program and honored for receiving our MBA degree.

Why are we moving in that direction and whose idea was it?

I will refer you to four documents that answer those questions. The documents listed here start in late spring of 2001.

May 23, 2001 *"Agreement for the Continued Development of the Regional Campuses of Indiana University, Purdue University, and IUPUI"* written to by the Indiana Commission of Higher Education and signed by the Commissioner, Stan Jones and the president of Indiana University, Myles Brand, and the president of Purdue University, Martin Jischke. This document is usually referred to as the "White Paper."

"To address the increasing need for advanced education, Indiana University and Purdue University campuses will emphasize achievement at the master's level and will conduct a review of the master's degrees currently offered. The purpose of the review will be to strengthen the programmatic coherence at each regional campus in relation to the regional need, quality of life, fiscal viability, and student participation and graduation rate of each offered program. The State is committed to the expansion of selected graduate programs designed to meet local employment needs on the regional campuses of Indiana University and Purdue University as well as, IUPUI." (Underlined for emphasis)

November 2001, *Purdue University North Central, Strategic Planning Document*. This document was written on this campus and approved by the Board of Trustees. On page 9, under Goals, Strategies and Assessment Measures, 2. Academic Programs this statement is prominently noted:

“PNC will enhance and expand the degree programs at the Bachelor’s and Master’s level. The curricula will be subject to a continuous quality improvement process. Learning, discovery and engagement will be the focal points of the academic environment at the North Central campus.”

June 8, 2007, *Reaching Higher: Strategic Directions for Higher Education in Indiana*, written and approved by the ICHE, there is a section on page 12 pertaining to Regional campuses, the third bullet point states:

“Regional campuses should increase their enrollment and programs central to their communities and regions they serve with a special emphasis on four-year completion rates for “traditional-aged” students and on working adults and baccalaureate degree production and limited master degree production in occupations that are central to Indiana’s economy and important to the local community. This also includes more variability in program offering formats, delivery modes, and schedules.” (underlined for emphasis)

July 1, 2008, *Purdue University North Central Strategic Plan*. This plan was written on this campus with multiple committees, position papers, town hall meetings and ample means and opportunities of promoting, discussing and deciding on the various goals and topics found in this report.

Under the Values section on page 4:

PNC values: Education of high quality and integrity in an atmosphere that promotes lifelong learning through specific curricula that lead primarily to baccalaureate and master’s degrees sought by our students.

The idea of PNC moving to the Master’s degree granting level has never been a secret. The Chancellor has mentioned it numerous times at his convocations. It has come up at various meetings and found in numerous documents – the four listed here are, arguably, more “official” than others.

If we are granted this level by the Higher Learning Commission what does this mean to this campus? Specifically, are we going to put our limited resources in this area?

If we are granted this level, it means that we can offer the Master's degree with the approval of the Higher Learning Commission and that organization will list us a Master's degree granting institution. We still have our connection with the Graduate School in West Lafayette - as do all the Graduate programs at the other regional campuses. Purdue University has one Graduate School.

We are not *required* to offer any additional graduate programs nor are we required to place any resources into that endeavor. That is up to us. To keep that status we need to continue to offer at least one graduate degree. The option to expand those offerings is our decision and our future.

If other questions or concerns arise, who is in the best position to address them?

Associate Vice Chancellor George Asteriadis (X5201) is the Director of Graduate Programs here at PNC. His office is on the first floor of SWRZ. For specific concerns about the Masters in Elementary Education or the Masters in Business Administration, please contact the respective department chairs or college deans.

When is the visit?

782 days from today – February 24, 2009

In 782, whatever we do,
Though the days be short and the hours few,
The Team will come and see us all,
We'll do just fine and have a ball!

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

Director of Accreditation and Assessment

X 5217 SWRZ 40 dutt@pnc.edu