

Tuesday Tidbits
Tuesday, March 2, 2010

**Since next week is Spring Break, here is an early Tidbit
and a plea for help!**
(all you have to do is think!)

By Friday, March 4, all five criteria will have been presented in draft form to the Campus Community through the Friday noon meetings. There have been opportunities to discuss and clarify information and to find examples and evidence of activities. Here are a few topics that YOU (yes, YOU!!) can help with. All you have to do is think.

What are the most important PNC events that have happened in the past ten years?

This information is usually put in the introduction and I am looking for events, dates, names (if appropriate) etc. So, sharpen your memory as we wait for spring to appear and think back ... what DID happen? Ten years is along time! Some things were more important than others. My view of campus is not the same as yours. Please send me your list!

And on a more serious note, the common cry from almost every writer for the criteria: ***Why didn't we gather the information we need for the core components in a way that makes it easy to find?***

This is the universal problem of this Self Study. Try this as an example:

How many pairs of shoes have you owned since 2001? Organize them into categories by color, price, and place of purchase.

If somebody asked me this question, I would have a difficult (if not impossible) task to come up with a reasonable answer. I could have gathered the information starting in 2001 IF I had known it would be needed. At this point I might be able to go back a year or two for some of the information but probably not all.

The HLC has dramatically reorganized the information it wants since 2001. This came into public view about 2005-6. There are institutions that have faced these criteria ahead of us and we use their self studies as guides for formats, topics etc. However, that doesn't help us come up with our own information. In a nutshell:

1. We have never been asked for this information in the past. So, we didn't collect it.
2. Different departments and colleges collect different things in different ways for their own uses. If a department has academic accreditation issues (NCATE, NLN, ACBSP

and ABET) some information is required and thus collected. Other departments are not in that situation.

3. We will list this as an institutional challenge – gather required information in a standardized manner for future use.

What exactly are we looking for that we can't seem to find?

As an example: Criterion Five wants to know what activities *engage students, faculty, staff and administrators with external communities?* This does NOT mean what volunteer work we do with our own service clubs or churches etc. This means activities sponsored by PNC. Any ideas? (Please send them to me or Phyllis Dranger.)

How about this one from Criterion Four . *The faculty and students at PNC produce scholarship and create knowledge through basic and applied research.* The writer for this material thought it made sense to list the number of publications our faculty have had accepted each year. There is no such number. We can find a few numbers here and there from some departments but, again, nobody was told to collect this data in a standardized way.

There are other data points that are floating out there too. It wasn't a matter of neglecting to do what is now needed, it was simply not knowing that we needed it. Next time we will be ready.

So, here's your assignment for Spring Break – what are the most important events at PNC since 2001. (And, for many of you, your hiring might be on your list but please don't take it personally if it's not in the introduction.)

Thanks!

When is our visit?

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

*It isn't eight, it isn't seven.
They'll be here in four-eleven.*

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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