

Tuesday Tidbits
Thursday, April 21, 2011
And the envelope, please.

You have already read in the Chancellor's memo the outcome of the HLC Visit. This Tidbit is simply meant to give more general information about the visit itself and one more chance for me to bombard you with really terrible poetry.

PLEASE keep in mind. The Visiting Team only *recommends*. Their report and recommendations now must make its way through several HLC committees and then get blessed by the HLC Board before we can actually say all these recommendations are going to happen. It is possible that the HLC committees might change their recommendations. Stay tuned for the next exciting episode!

The Chancellor's memo said we got 10 years. Hey! If 10 is good isn't 20 better?

Ten years is the longest you can get! If you looked in the display case near the Information Desk, you will see the previous Self Studies. You can easily see that a ten year time frame is not how it has always been. In the 70's and 80's, five to eight years was much more the norm. We got the maximum amount allowed.

No reports and no visits? What was that all about?

The HLC Visiting Team *could* have asked us to provide reports – contingency reports, progress reports, informational reports etc – on any number of topics. They chose not to. They *could* have told us that a Focused Visit was in our immediate future, and again, they chose not to.

So, they loved everything we said, did, proposed and thought about! Great!!

Not so fast. They did not exactly go that far. When we see their final report, there will be concerns and challenges for us to work on for the NEXT VISIT!

Are we now considered a Master's degree granting institution?

No we are not. We are a Bachelor's granting institution that has permission to offer the MBA. If we want additional Master's degree programs we need PRIOR HLC permission. After we do a few more of those programs, then the HLC may choose to reclassify us to the Master's level. The HLC does things differently in this regard for Masters and above than they did for us with the bachelor's level designation.

Can we offer On-line degree programs now?

Yep! That was totally approved with no restrictions. Still need to wait for formal approval by HLC before we can start advertising and teaching it however.

Anything we need to do now?

Take a look at ALL the display cases and bulletin boards on campus that were developed for the Visiting Team. The General Education Bulletin Board outside of SWRZ 226 is exceptional and would warrant a really good look! Thanks to Dr. Rogalin and the Gen Ed committee. The Display Case near Continuing Education gives an outstanding explanation of the PNC “Centers.” Take some time to read it over. And, don’t forget to look at Pounce outside of LSF 144 in his spiffy T-shirt. In TECH the Diversity Display Case covers all manners of diversity on campus. Good work done by all!

So, what’s next?

1. The Visiting Team report needs to make its rounds for approval. Then the HLC Board will tell us officially what the results are. It is within the range of possibilities that those results could be changed.
2. If we want a second Master’s degree we need to get it all together and start it through the “pipeline” – PNC Graduate Council, West Lafayette Graduate School, Purdue Board of Trustees, Indiana Commission for Higher Education – only then we can write a “Substantive Change Proposal” for the Higher Learning Commission. If HLC approves the addition of a second Master’s degree THEN we can start advertising for it and begin teaching it. And if we want a third ... or fourth ... etc....the process begins all over again. Sometime in there the HLC will decide when we are ready to be designated a Master’s degree level granting institution and then we can skip their part of the approval process.
3. We send in our Annual Institutional Data Update(AIDU) every spring.
4. We begin participating in “Pathways” which is a different way of reporting to HLC and reaffirming our accreditation. This is a new idea that is still in the formulation stage. The basic changes are something like this ...
 - a. Self Study is limited to less than 70,000 words (about 70 pages)
 - b. Self Study and EVERYTHING else is sent in electronically.
 - c. We choose a project for Improvement in the next 2-4 years
(could be retention rates, could be Master’s degrees, could be...)
5. The next HLC Visit will be in the 2020-2021 school year. The soonest they will be on campus is the third Monday in September.

One more time ...

***Planning ahead, ALWAYS pays
HLC will return in 3,439 days!***

As always – thanks!
(and don’t lose your name tag! They’ll be back.)