

Tuesday Tidbits
Tuesday, August 31, 2010
Status of Affiliation

In last week's Tidbits, the phrase "Change Request" was used. I also heard that we are requesting two changes. What actually is being changed and what changes are we requesting?

Every institution that is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has a *Status of Affiliation* sheet. This is a one page summary that tells what status the institution has with the HLC. I attached a copy of ours with this e-mail. There is also a summary at the HLC website.

For this summary, go to <http://www.ncacihe.org> and look on the right hand side for a box of topics. Click on "Find HLC Accredited Colleges and Universities" and then fill in the blank for Purdue North Central. That gives more information than the *Status of Affiliation* sheet. The information on that website comes from our AIDU or Annual Institution Data Update system. (Trust me, if Purdue ever runs out of acronyms, the HLC has a few to spare!) The AIDU is filled out every spring and the numerical data comes from our latest update (4/22/2010).

I just looked at the Status of Affiliation sheet. What does all that mean and what exactly do we want to change?

The information at the beginning is basic contact information. The most important line of the whole page is this:

Current Accreditation Status: Accredited (This we do not want to change!)

Institutions are either PEAQ or AQIP. We are PEAQ.

PEAQ Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality

AQIP Academic Quality Improvement Program

These designations determine how often and in what way we are being assessed as an institution. Point of interest, PU/WL is also PEAQ but PU/CAL is AQIP.

We are a Public institution that awards A (Associate) and B (Bachelor) level degrees.

Here is our first change! We would really like to add "M" to that list for Masters' degrees.

WHOA! We already offer two or those! MBA and an MA in Elementary Education.

Right! We offer them on our campus but the West Lafayette campus has control and they are considered West Lafayette degrees. However, before I get angry phone calls, this is changing with changes in the Graduate School and we really need to have our own control and authority. Hence, we are asking for a change.

What else is on the Status sheet?

Luckily we have no “Stipulations on Affiliation Status” and that is a really good thing. We also have authority to use the *Streamlined Approval Process* if we decide to offer a degree program off campus beyond our three sites – PPC, WCF and LCF. They already count the campus here in Westville as a site.

The next line on Distance Education Degrees is where we need to make a change. It states that “Prior Commission Approval Required.” That approval is what we are requesting when we put in our second change chapter. Last week’s Tidbits had a brief explanation of why we need to change this situation. There are two reasons.

(1) The Federal government – USDOE to be specific – has defined distance education programs to be programs with 50% or more of the courses available online. This means we now have degrees online that were never intended to be.

(2) The Nursing Dept. would like to offer a degree completion program – think RN’s with associate degrees that need courses for a BSN but not necessarily nursing courses with clinicals (they already have the RN) – online and so we need to do all this anyway.

The rest of the Status Sheet states that we have no reports required (a good thing!) and no other scheduled visits (a very good thing!).

What about the dates at the end?

The first is the date of our last comprehensive visit. The second is our next comprehensive visit (a mere 229 days away as I type) and the third is the last action date. In November 2003, we had a site visit that made sure we were still offering BA/BS/BLS degrees like we said we would in our 2001 Self Study Change Chapter to go from associate to bachelor’s level. We were. By the time all the approvals were in order it was the end of April 2004.

When is our visit?

229 days from today – August 31, 2010. The HLC Team arrives on April 18, 2011.

*Hope everything is going fine
‘Cause they’ll be here in 229.*

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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