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INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Assessment News

August 17, 2009

Volume 9, Issue 1

Accreditation Self-Study

Already Underway

Preparation has begun for our next 10 year accreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Consultant/Evaluators will likely visit campus in Fall, 2011. In preparation for that visit, St. Norbert College will conduct an institutional self-study and construct an electronic reading room containing documentation for all accreditation criteria, core components, and examples of evidence.

To coordinate this self-study, President Kunkel appointed a Steering Committee (see photo). In April, the Self-Study Steering Committee attended the Higher Learning Commission's Annual Meeting as well as a Pre-Conference Workshop on conducting an institutional self-study.

Each member of the Steering Committee serves as a Criterion Chair. Over the two-year period of the self-study, the Criterion Chair is responsible for gathering, analyzing, and organizing evidence, evaluating compliance, and writing a chapter narrative for the final report.

The Criterion Chairs will be soliciting evidence in face-to-face meetings with various groups and individuals throughout the Fall semester. In addition, the Steering Committee as a whole will request written responses to a small set of key questions from all campus programs and administrative units. After analyzing this evidence, the Steering Committee will share its initial conclusions and invite critique at a series of open forums Spring semester.



Self-Study Steering Committee

Ms. Julie Massey, Mr. Curtis Kowaleski, Dr. Linda Beane-Katner, Dr. Stephen Correia, Dr. Mary Oling-Sisay, Dr. Robert Rutter and Ms. Patricia Wery

What is Accreditation?

The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality. Accrediting agencies, which are private educational associations of regional or national scope, develop evaluation criteria and conduct peer evaluations to assess whether or not those criteria are met. Institutions and/or programs that request an agency's evaluation and that meet an agency's criteria are then "accredited" by that agency. (U.S. Department of Education)

Who Accredits St. Norbert College?

The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), also known as North Central, is one of six regional accreditation organizations recognized by the United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Founded in 1895, the NCA accredits over 10,000 public and private educational institutions serving 19 states including: Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

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Fall, 2011

HLC Accreditation Criteria

- Mission & Integrity
- Preparing for the Future
- Student Learning & Effective Teaching
- Acquisition, Discovery & Application of Knowledge
- Engagement & Service



Assessment Resource

Office of Institutional Effectiveness
Main Hall, Room 219
Phone: 403-3855 FAX: 403-4096
Web site: www.snc.edu/oie/

Who Accredits St. Norbert College?

(Continued from Page 1)

The NCA is organized into two distinct Commissions. **The Higher Learning Commission (HLC)** oversees the accreditation of degree-granting colleges and universities. The **Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (CASI)** accredits a wide variety of educational institutions, ranging from early childhood, elementary, middle, and secondary schools to adult-vocational, college preparatory, and non-degree granting post-secondary institutions.

Why Should I Care about Accreditation?

- Accreditation is an indicator of quality for the public and our peers.
- Accreditation promotes self-examination and continuous improvement.
- Non-accredited institutions can not dispense federal financial aid.
- An honest self-study can help SNC become the most highly regarded institution of higher learning in the State of Wisconsin.

What Will I Have to DO?

- Share your thoughts and ideas with the Self-Study Steering Committee (Fall Semester, 2009-2010)
- With other members of your unit, respond in writing to several key questions (Fall Semester, 2009-2010)
- Read the informative summaries, attend the open forums, and respond to criterion analyses (Spring Semester, 2009-2010)
- Review the draft chapters and provide helpful feedback and additional examples (Spring Semester, 2010-2011)
- Prepare for the HLC Site-Team Visit by familiarizing yourself with the final Self-Study Report (Fall, 2011-2012)

Consult Your Accreditation Web Page

For up to date information on the progress of the HLC Self-Study, consult the SNC's accreditation web page at:

<https://www.snc.edu/oi/login/accreditation/accredtable.html>.

The page includes the complete self-study plan, the full accreditation criteria, past reports, a link to the Electronic Reading Room, and other relevant information. This web site will serve as the primary source of current information about the on-going institutional self-study. In the future, draft chapters will be posted on the web site for SNC Community review and feedback..

Anticipated Schedule of Activities

October, 2009—December, 2009

Target Data Collection (additional)

- Additional evidence/analysis requested from targeted units/programs (drawn from all College divisions and constituencies) for core components deemed “not in compliance” or where there appears to be weak evidence of compliance.
- Meetings with key programs personnel scheduled as needed.
- Initial assessment revised by the Criterion Chairs using the evidence/information supplied by targeted units/programs.
- Electronic Reading Room updated (continuous throughout this process).
- Criterion Writing Team functions defined. Writing Teams will be chaired by a Criterion Chair and include 2-3 additional “experts” who will review evidence and help draft the report chapters.
- Criterion Chairs in consultation with Self-Study Chair identify Writing Teams, broadly representative of all campus constituencies.

January, 2010—April, 2011

Community Forums:

- Forums with electronic feedback options will be held to a) introduce the Criterion and Core Components, b) share the Criterion Chair's analysis of SNC's compliance and identified opportunities for improvement, and c) solicit feedback on the analysis.
- Timely information supporting the forums will be communicated via Assessment News, e.g. 5 one page issues with the Criterion, Core Components, and examples of Evidence in one column and the Criterion Chair's analysis in the other.
- Additional presentations/discussions will be held with select groups (e.g. Board of Trustees, Alumni Association).
- Based on Community Feedback, the Criterion Chairs will further revise their assessments.
- The Office of Institutional Effectiveness will publish a comprehensive study of Mission Effectiveness based on AAC&U's framework.
- Revised assessments and data-based findings regarding Mission Effectiveness streamed into Strategic Planning Process.
- Self-Study Chair, Criterion Chairs, and select members of the Writing Teams will attend the HLC Annual Meeting in Chicago.