Death, Taxes and Middle States: The College Prepares for Reaccreditation

Sandwich Seminar
September 20, 2000
Middle States Steering Committee

- Joy Hendrick, Faculty Chair
- Patricia Francis, Coordinator and Editor
- Joe Governali
- Jerry O’Callaghan (on leave fall 2000)
- Rob Ploutz-Snyder
- William Sharp
- John Shirley
- Robert Spitzer (fall 2000)
Historical Background and Overview

Patty Francis
Executive Assistant to the President
Primary purpose:

• engage the college community in close self-examination and analysis of its mission, goals, policies, services, and resources in order to ensure continued quality, accountability, and direction for the future
• collectively learn about ourselves and all that we do,
• gain insights that will enable us to improve how we deliver programs and services to our students, our faculty and staff, and the community at large.
Specific objectives:

• To organize a self-study review that will allow the College to efficiently and effectively learn about its programs and services.

• To orchestrate the efforts of college faculty and staff so as to maximize coordination and minimize duplication with respect to the numerous other planning and accreditation initiatives that are presently underway.
• To help the College better understand and therefore better address specific issues
• To formulate and present to the College a list of recommendations for improving the functions and offerings of the institution.
• To assist the College in clarifying its vision of the future, specifically in regards to the next five years.

Spring 2000
Steering Committee begins work

Fall 2000
Meet with M.S. liaison
Subcommittees begin work
All units work on reports

Spring 2001
Work continues
Drafts due by end of Spring

Summer-Fall 2001
Final editing and preparation of report

Spring 2002
Visitation by Middle States Evaluation Team

Fall 2002
Respond to Middle States recommendations
The Design

• The Steering Committee spent the spring semester outlining the design for our campus self-study.

• Two major components
  – Comprehensive Review
  – Special Emphasis Areas
The Comprehensive Review

- Steering committee developed charges for all VPs, AVPs, and Deans
• Each unit/department will be asked to complete a comprehensive review

• Numerous characteristics of interest by Middle States (based on *Characteristics of Excellence*)

• Many items needed can come from Assessment Plan

• Trying to reduce duplication of effort
Characteristics of Excellence
Commission of Higher Education

- Institutional Integrity
- Clearly stated mission and goals
- Students
- Faculty
- Library resources
- Institutional effectiveness
- Planning and resource allocation
Characteristics of Excellence
Commission of Higher Education

- Financial resources
- Organization, administration and governance
- Facilities, equipment, etc.
- Publications
- Responsiveness to change
Special Emphasis Areas

• Considered:
  - Long Range Plan
  - Current campus issues
  - President’s Opening Meeting
    • The Challenges Ahead: Growth, Diversity, Access and Excellence

• Some areas similar to 1992 self-study, but with a different focus
Special Emphasis Areas

- Planning and Assessment
- Equity, Access and Diversity
- Intellectual Climate
  - Improving intellectual climate on campus
  - Reducing student behavior shadow
- Technology
- Institutional Context
  - Internal contextual issues
  - External contextual issues
- Campus Infrastructure
In addition…

- Some standing committee involvement may be sought
  - EPC (for mission statement review)
  - LRPC
  - Faculty Senate
  - All-College Assessment Committee
A successful self-study

• Dependent on:
  - extensive participation from all areas of the college
  - input into comprehensive review
  - contributions on subcommittees

• Next week faculty and professional staff will receive a letter requesting them to volunteer to serve on the work groups
  - major work time: Nov ‘00 - June ‘01
Questions?

Comments?

Thanks for your interest in the self-study.