

HLC Self Study Update

It's a Date!

Mark your calendars for **April 18-20, 2011**, for the Higher Learning Commission site visit. Although it looks like a long way off, there is still much to accomplish by then. Over one-hundred of your campus colleagues are directly involved in the self-study. Your involvement is also important. Want to know how? Visit www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/academicaffairs/HLC/

Custodians Share Their Front-line Perspectives

Individuals who are part of the Physical Plant Custodial Crew were invited to attend a dinner hour listening session to share their views on how Ferris meets – or could improve upon - the Criteria for Accreditation. Thirty-five (35) individuals attended the session facilitated by Paul Blake, Mike Cooper, and Robbie Teahen. Within this group, there is a cumulative 369 years of service! They have seen a lot!



Facilitators' Executive Summary: Overall, the group identified many strengths. Chief among the strengths, they report, are the quality and diversity of our programs and our overall commitment to quality education, as evidenced by the commitment of faculty and staff and the enhancements to our classrooms and buildings. Another strength they noted is the supportive community, both on and off-campus. They believe we generally do a good job of maintaining our buildings, and that they are clean, making our campus appealing to visiting prospective students and families. They are especially proud of some of the new buildings and renovated classrooms, as well as the increasingly beautiful grounds. They appreciate the training they are provided and the equipment made available to do their jobs. They are grateful for the tuition benefit and access to the recreation facilities.

Chief among their concerns are the need for increased levels of communication among all employee groups; concerns about waste, including the University's limited engagement in recycling; and perceptions of inequities in application of processes, including hiring. They recommend that we make the mission more visible to all; that we develop a policy where they could share at least a part of their tuition benefit plan with other employees; that we use the buildings and programming more actively for the benefit of all in the community, including providing more social outlets on campus for students. They believe parking needs to be improved for the community and our commuter students to take advantage of campus events. The Custodial personnel understand their role in part as training future workers and take this responsibility seriously. They would appreciate being more involved in campus planning, such as in the planning for new buildings that will require maintenance.

World Café Invites Community Perspectives

On December 3, 2008, Ferris State University's Criterion 5 Committee held a World Café Event to solicit feedback from the community at large about how we were doing in the area of Engagement and Service. Several hundred

invitations were issued and twenty eight community partners and leaders attended the event. The focus of the event was to analyze the four core components of Criterion 5 from the perspective of these community leaders and to assess the needs of the community.

Generally, the community perception is that community relationships with Ferris have significantly improved in recent years. They indicate that communication is definitely better and Ferris faculty, staff and students seem to be increasingly engaged in service to the community. Leadership at the university was identified as a primary factor in this positive relationship. The community perceives Ferris as enhancing the quality of life in the area and making the community more vibrant and unique by providing activities, cultural events and training. Services through the outreach clinics (Optometry, Dental, and Pharmacy) are a significant community benefit. Ferris also offers unique opportunities for the community through the Card Wildlife Museum, Jim Crow Museum, sports clinics, the Student Recreation Center and Tennis and Fitness Center, the Ice Arena and FLITE. The students serving as role models to area youth were also seen as a community asset.

The community voiced concerns in two major areas: the lack of available and accessible parking on campus and communication about events on campus. These two areas are seen as significant barriers to community involvement in campus events. The group also voiced the importance of Ferris understanding the needs of businesses and agencies before providing services through student service learning. There were several suggestions made by the community leaders that can be viewed in the final report.



World Café facilitators were (pictured, back row, l to r, Mike Cairns, Mike Terry, Andy Baker; front row, Nancy Mettlach, Wendy Samuels, Jennifer Hegenauer, and Leroy Wright. Not pictured: Lynn Scheible and Robbie Teahen.

[Next Listening Sessions Feature Criteria 4 and 5](#)

Here are the dates for the next listening sessions. We especially invite those who are NOT presently involved with the process to participate and to share their perspectives. Refer to the Criteria for Accreditation on the HLC Ferris webpage to learn more about the substance of the criterion statements and the Commission's expectations: <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/academicaffairs/HLC/core.htm>

Criterion 4 - Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge

Wednesday, Jan 28 - 9-10 a.m.- Starr Building - STR 209

Thursday, Jan 29, 2-3 p.m., College of Business - BUS 201

Friday, Jan 30, 12-1 p.m., Allied Health Sciences - VFS 103

Criterion 5 - Engagement and Service

Wednesday, February 4, 9-10 a.m. - Johnson Hall - JOH 101

Thursday, February 5, 2-3 p.m., Timme Center - CSS 302

Friday, February 6, 12-1 p.m., Bishop Hall - BIS 209

Watch the website for updates and to view many more pictures!

<http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/academicaffairs/HLC/>