

HLC Self Study Update

Participation Update

More than 100 Ferris faculty, staff, and students are engaged in the self-study process for the Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation visit. At present, committees and sub-committees are gathering evidence that demonstrates how Ferris meets the criteria and core components. If you are asked to supply information, please do whatever you can to assist. Becoming reaccredited is not only everyone's responsibility, but it is also in everyone's best interest.

Evidence Required

In some cases, criterion committees are finding that limited evidence is available, even when we believe that Ferris is successfully meeting an expectation. Over the next couple years, we will need to become increasingly systematic in collecting, organizing, and analyzing evidence that tells the Ferris story vis a vis the Criteria for Accreditation. To learn more about the HLC expectations, check this out:

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

Standards for Reaccreditation

In short form, the criteria are:

1. Mission and Integrity
2. Preparing for the Future
3. Student Learning and Effective Teaching
4. Acquisition, Discovery and Application of Knowledge
5. Engagement and Service

If you have information that will be valuable in telling the Ferris story, examples that demonstrate "patterns of evidence," be sure to share it with either the appropriate Criterion co-chairs or send it to the HLC Steering Committee by writing to HLC_Self-study@ferris.edu

More detail about the expectations and the evidence Ferris has gathered will be reported in future issues of this **HLC Self-Study Update**. As information becomes available, it will be posted on the HLC website. You will find the HLC site by clicking on "Faculty and Staff" on the Ferris home page, and then clicking on HLC Self-Study at the left. You may also go directly to:

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

At present, at the website you will find the charges of the steering and criterion committees; you will find current lists of members for each of the committees; and you will find information presented to the Board of Trustees in July. There are also links to other universities' self-studies, the HLC website, and a Frequently Asked Questions document. In most months there will be a one-page newsletter containing up-to-date news, beginning with this issue.

Current-year Plans to Gather Your Insights

Two strategies are planned to gather your insights about how Ferris meets the HLC standards. In December 2008 and January 2009, multiple opportunities will be provided for individuals from across the university to share their ideas in person concerning the criteria. Separate one-hour sessions will be held for each criterion, with three different times scheduled in each week for the criterion of the week. That schedule is:

Criterion 1:

Monday, December 1, 3 - 4 pm, RAN 155
Tuesday, December 2, 12 - 1 pm, IRC 104
Friday, December 5, 11 - 12 noon, PEN 220

Criterion 2:

Monday, December 8, 3 - 4 pm, RAN 155
Tuesday, December 9, 12 - 1 pm, IRC 104
Friday, December 12, 11 - 12 noon, PEN 220

Criterion 3:

Monday, December 15, 3 - 4 pm, RAN 155
Tuesday, December 16, 12 - 1 pm, IRC 104
Friday, December 19, 11 am to noon, PEN 220

In addition, the Steering Committee is developing a series of survey instruments that will be administered in January 2008 for current faculty and staff, students, alumni, and possibly others. Watch for that online survey and please take time to complete it. Your opinions matter. It is important that we present a comprehensive perspective on the strengths and opportunities for Ferris. We assure you that your input will be valued and represented.

E-Mail Us with Any Suggestions, Concerns, Evidence, or Observations

Communicate with us anytime by writing to HLC_Self-Study@ferris.edu

Reports of Preliminary Findings

In February 2009, each criterion committee will present its preliminary findings. These interim reports will be posted on the website for your review.

Data Committee Creates Unique System

The Data Committee led by Kristen Salomonson and Katherine Manley has designed a system for collecting evidence so that it is accessible to all who need it. A number of approaches were explored before determining that we would build a custom database. This system has been produced by Sam Fattore, Manager of Technical Services, through guidance provided by the data and steering committees. All committees' members will have access to this database and will be posting documents and identifying how these documents contribute to telling the Ferris story.

Timeline

Sandy Balkema led the effort on the Steering Committee to produce a detailed timeline to guide the University's work toward producing its self-study by the summer of 2010. To review the planned milestones for each of the years 2008 through 2011, check out the timeline here:

<http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/academicaffairs/HLC/timelines/detailed-timeline.pdf>

Site Visit Date Pending

The University has just been asked to supply preferred dates for both the fall of 2010 and the spring of 2011. Although our current preference is for a spring date, the Commission staff will make this determination according to the number of visits being scheduled during that academic year and the availability of teams. We expect a confirmed date in December, 2008. As soon as a date has been determined, the University community will be advised. It will be important that campus leaders, faculty, and students be highly accessible during the team's visit, which will occur in a Monday thru Wednesday a.m. format.