Institutional Reaccreditation

Process and Status Report

Presentation to the Faculty Senate
May 7, 2009
Reaccreditation

- Last visit: Fall 1998
  - Next visit originally scheduled for Nov. 2008
  - NEASC granted postponement to Nov. 2009

- Requirements
  - Institutional Self-Study
    - Respond to 172 topics within eleven standards
    - Description, Appraisal, and Projection
  - Campus visit
    - External team of experts
    - Recommendations for continued accreditation, possible interim reports
Reaccreditation

- Frame of reference
  - Previous findings
    - Starting point for team’s review
  - Changing standards
    - Shifts in emphasis on part of accreditors
  - Changing environment
    - Societal and other factors affecting how the campus approaches its review
- Institutional issues
  - Specific challenges facing the institution
Previous Findings

- 1998-99 review identified four issues requiring follow-up:
  - Campus/system governance relationships
  - Assessment of student learning outcomes
  - Library collections, staffing and facilities
  - Deferred maintenance and infrastructure needs
Changing Expectations

- New emphases in 2006 NEASC standards
  - Mission and governance
  - Capacity
  - Evaluation, evaluation, evaluation
    - Direct outcomes
    - “Culture of evidence”
    - Accountability to stakeholders
- External expectations
  - Accountability
  - Cost
Institutional Issues

- “Framework for Excellence”
  - Faculty Rebuilding and Rebalancing
    - Reaffirm goals of Amherst 250
    - “RFP” process for net new faculty hiring
  - Facilities Improvement
    - Support current levels of research and teaching activity
    - Create greater capacity
    - Take advantage of current state investment opportunities
    - Develop comprehensive long-term facilities plan
- Student Experience
  - Advising and early success
  - General Education
  - Impact on admissions competitiveness
- Short-term financial strategy
Status and Next Steps

- Team Visit: Nov. 1-4, 2009
  - Team chair: Dr. Mark Daniel Fogel, President, University of Vermont
Office of the President

A Welcome from
President Daniel Mark Fogel

Welcome to the University of Vermont. I hope you’ll enjoy exploring the University through the many windows that this Web site opens on our programs. As you move around the Web site, you’ll find all the resources of a major research university combined with the human scale, flexibility, and responsiveness of a liberal arts college.

Vermont is distinguished by innovative research and scholarship across all the major fields of study, led by programs of great distinction in the life sciences and in environmental sciences and studies. Vermont is a place where you can find just the right balance.
Status and Next Steps

- Self-Study now being developed
  - Steering Committee
    - Bryan Harvey, Associate Provost for Planning and Assessment
    - Marilyn Blaustein, Director of Institutional Research
    - Ernest May, Secretary, Faculty Senate
    - James Leheny, Chancellor’s Office
    - Martha Stassen, Director of Assessment
Status and Next Steps

- Launch campus Reaccreditation website
  - Links to NEASC standards
  - Earlier accreditation documents
  - Contact Steering Committee

- Post preliminary drafts of self-study standards
  - Works in progress
  - Different stages of development
  - Much to be added, edited, developed
  - Links to document library not yet active
Welcome to the UMass Amherst NEASC Accreditation Website

Every ten years, the University of Massachusetts Amherst develops a comprehensive self-study as part of our re-accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The self-study is an intensive endeavor involving the entire institution in a process of self-examination aimed at institutional improvement. This process will culminate on November 1st-4th, when a visiting team assembled by NEASC will spend two and a half days meeting with faculty, staff and students to gain a first-hand knowledge of the institution.

The purpose of this website is to facilitate communication across campus about the accreditation process. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact us by email at accred09@admin.umass.edu.

The institutional Self-Study is now under preparation, and a first draft will be available for review and comment on approximately July 1, 2009. Between now and then, interested individuals are welcome to preview the self-study as a work-in-progress using the "2009 Self-Study Preview" link at the left. Comments of all kinds are always welcome using the "Feedback" link.
URGENT SONG
Tune into social and cultural movements on WMUA
Status and Next Steps

- **May, June**
  - Receive feedback
  - Prepare first draft of Self-Study
- **Early July**
  - Post first draft on website
  - Notify campus community
  - Receive feedback
- **Late August**
  - Post final draft of Self-Study on website
  - Receive feedback
- **Mid-September**
  - Send Self-Study to Visiting Team
- **November 1-4**
  - Team visit