

Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Step 3: Educational Effectiveness Review Site Visit

August 28, 2014

Agenda

- Quick Review of Accreditation
- Upcoming Site Visit: What to expect
- Review of Themes
- Questions

Accreditation: What is it?

- Quality Assurance
- Standards of Quality Assurance
- Being acknowledged internationally as a quality institution

The Accreditation Process is designed to:

- Build a **culture of evidence-based decision making**
- Promote a **commitment to institutional improvement**
- Validate **institutional integrity**

From 2013 Handbook of Accreditation

Three-Step Process (Remember. This is the last time that a three-step process will be utilized.)

Institutional Proposal (2010)

Capacity and Preparatory Review - CPR (2011/2012)

Educational Effectiveness Review - EER

Report Submitted: June 2014 (on-line)

Site Visit: September 16-18, 2014

Site Visit on Campus: Tuesday- Thursday, September 16-18, 2014

Typical Meetings:

- Accreditation Liaison Officer, Director of Accreditation
- President
- Boards
- Deans, Program Chairs
- Office of Admissions
- Office of Registrar
- Student Support Services
- Library
- Information Technology
- Institutional Research Office
- Open meetings with faculty, staff, students

Site Visit

- Meetings intended to better understand, help improve
- Candid responses
- “I don’t know” or “I am not familiar with that.” are acceptable answers. Refer questions to relevant staff if you do not know an answer. No one is expected to know everything.
- Online Factbook has much data
- Present Commendations and Recommendations

Recommendations from Initial Accreditation

From Team Report

- Strategic plan
- Fiscal Stability
- Enrollment Management
- On-Site Leadership
- Faculty Development
- Student Learning Assessment

From Commission

- Full-time resident president
- Frequency of performance reviews of the president
- Multi year Faculty Contracts

Two Themes

Two themes determined by AUA and approved by WASC in 2010

- Theme 1: Institutionalizing the Assessment of Student Learning
- Theme 2: Cultivating a Community of Scholars

Theme 1 – Institutionalizing Student Learning Assessment

- **New Guidelines for the Review of Academic Programs**
- **Guidelines for the Review of Academic Support Units**
- Student Learning Assessment Plans
- Student Learning Assessment Reports online
- Curricular Maps – Updated and Accessible Online
- **University-wide SLOs** – alignment with mission
- Undergraduate Assoc. Dean for **General Education**, Gen. Ed. Committee
- More **resources on www.aua.am** – rubrics, sharing institutional knowledge
- **Trainings/Workshops**
- Improvements and Expansion of Ongoing University Evaluations and Surveys
- University Management System, Course Management System

Theme 2 – Cultivating a Community of Scholars

- Multiyear Contracts – in progress
- **Definition of Scholarship** – promotion of definition throughout campus
- Research
- Promotions
- Awards (if any)
- **Workload policy**
- Orientation
- Community Meetings, Retreats, Coordination Meetings
- E-bulletin, website upgrade, social media
- Thinking about Thinking Lecture Initiative
- Co-curricular activities
- **The changing profile of AUA's Community of Scholars**

Recommendations from 2012 CPR

Discussed at February 2014 University-wide EER Meeting

1. Refining **assessment practices and institutionalizing** staffing and resources for educational effectiveness
2. Implementing the new **undergraduate** degree programs
3. Promoting **student success**
4. Reviewing **academic support** and **student service programs**
5. Strengthening the institution's **financial position and capacity**
6. Ensuring consistency of **credit hour** information

Next Steps

Site Visit: September 16-18, 2014 (Tuesday-Thursday on Campus)

Initial Report Community Meeting on Thursday morning, September 18th

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Commission Review: February 19, 2015

For additional information including the Handbook of Accreditation, previously submitted reports and resources:

<http://aua.am/accreditation-affiliations/>

Questions: See Tom Samuelian, ALO, or Sharistan Melkonian, Director of Accreditation.