

Agenda

UO Accreditation – April 2007

Jo Anna Gray, head of the UO Accreditation Team, introduced two other team members, David Hubin and Becky Couch-Goodling. The last Accreditation of the University was done in 1997. Accreditation is done on a regional basis by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). David Hubin is the UO Accreditation Liaison Officer to the NWCCU.

Jo Anna gave an overview of two processes that could be used for the 2007 Accreditation self-study report preparation:

Plan A – (also the default plan) follows the NWCCU Self-Study structure which is organized around a large number of standards, elements and indicators which are generic and applied to a broad range of institutions – from small community colleges to large research universities. Using this approach, institutions must respond to all of the points of the self-study, whether or not the details are appropriate for a particular kind of institution.

Plan B – allows the institution to design an alternative Self-Study structure. Such a structure can be organized around the mission of the institution, focused on local educational issues that are generally recognized as important and worthy of careful examination, and addressed to future leaders of the institution. (One potential audience for the UO report would be the new academic leadership for the University.)

The University of Oregon has chosen Plan B for the Self-Study Accreditation Report. This allows the University to focus the preparative work required for accreditation in areas where self-examination is most needed. Dave Hubin noted that the standards, elements and indications of the typical self-study (Plan A) must be kept in mind as we embark on our customized self-study, but he believes that the major points can be coherently incorporated into the Report we will prepare.

Jo Anna explained that the Accreditation Team was soliciting assistance from the Undergraduate Council to identify key issues to include in the customized self-study. The Accreditation Team would like the issues identified by the end of the Fall term. Their goal is to have the self-study completed by Fall 2006

Internal Review of Existing Degree Programs

Marian Friestad, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, reminded the Council that the University has an established pattern of periodic (10-year cycle) review of individual departments, which is distinct from the University-wide review required for accreditation. Marian announced that the degree programs for four departments in CAS were currently engaged in a revised version of the self-assessment process. The revised self-assessment is being tested as a 2-year pilot program. One of the ways in which it will differ from past practice is that departments will no longer have to collect their own data. Instead, the relevant data will be collected centrally, by the Office of Resource Management, and distributed to departments for analysis and comment in their individual reviews. Moreover, the data will be collected and made available at frequent intervals, not just at review time.