

NEASC - Fourth Meeting of Steering Committee

March 17, 2011

Mazzaferro Center

Minutes of the Meeting:

Attendees: *Bill Flynn, Sherry Horeanopoulos, Cathy Canney, Diane Lucas, Eric Gregoire, Matt Costello, Paul Weizer, Shirley Wagner, Mel Govindan, Terry Carroll, Peter Hogan, Michael Shanley, Sheila Sykes, Linda McKay, Christine Dee, Michael Fiorentino, Jane Fiske, Patrice Gray, Charles Sides*

Excused: Rob Pontbriand, Ann Howard

The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm

- The agenda is as follows:
 - Report of the survey subcommittee
 - Review of areas of concern from our last visit
 - Review of the timeline and the data first forms
 - Items from the floor

Agenda item 1 – Update on the NEASC survey

Survey Subcommittee is working on the NEASC Survey. We are trying to get the survey out by March 21. Emails will be sent to the various constituencies with reminders to participate. The survey availability will be two weeks. (3/21 – 4/3) Goal is to be back to the subcommittees by 4/11/2011.

Bill asked questions about alumni participation – separate questions to Alumni? Mike Kushmerek suggested utilizing the Alumni Board for help in soliciting responses and input. A suggestion would be made to utilize focus groups for information gathering.

Shirley suggested that a separate Alumni survey be devised. If a separate survey is done, we should remove the “preparedness” question from the NEASC survey as it is currently designed.

Agenda item 2 – Areas of concern from last NEASC visit

Four major areas to address from the last visit:

1. Engaging in institutional planning that is systematic, broad-based and participatory;
 - a. Lack of strategic plan
2. Re-establishing a governance system that supports the accomplishments of the institution’s mission and purpose;
 - a. Revise mission and statement
3. Operationalizing the Leadership College component of the institution’s mission; and
 - a. Disagreement on that component on campus at time of last visit
4. Developing the systematic means to evaluate evidence of student learning
 - a. Assessment issues, difficulty with relationships with BHE (in terms of planning), poor communication between faculty and administration, looking systematically at student learning

Five year interim report was done (as well as a 3-year interim) and reports were made as to the status of the above issues. An advising concern was added at the 5th year interim report. Significant progress has been made and the subcommittees are mindful of our past history in these matters of concern from the last visit.

Agenda item 3 – Review of the timeline and the data first forms

Discussion ensued about the option forms, LA&S program changes. Paul displayed the data forms from BlackBoard.

Shirley mentioned that Keene State got hit hard for their use of part time faculty.

Std 5 >Explanation of the use of part time faculty can be interesting to explain (GCE evening faculty are in the “equation” may not look like an accurate representation of the real situation at FSU, especially when seeing them as part of the total number of faculty). Flag/highlight in the narrative of the self-study.

Std>10/11 - Is website information up-to-date? Does the information there fit the standard to which it is applied?

There is a wealth of information about the data-first forms. Please familiarize yourself, within the subcommittees that will

review documents from the NEASC standards subcommittees, with the relevant information in these data first forms, prior to beginning review of reports.

Std 9> we had some review/discussion of the data first form concerning student financial aid.

Agenda item 4 - Items from the floor

Q. How are we doing with the goals/objectives/role of the committee?

A. Awaiting feedback from the subcommittees, results of data collection. Paul suggested that it might be a good time to review our Steering Committee goals. Look at the goals of the self study and how they have been achieved. It makes sense to see the information that will come to us in the form of subcommittee reports before assessing the goals.

- Ensuring broad-based participation is the major goal of the Steering Committee.
- Get a candid self-study
- Encourage exploration and free reign for research done by the subcommittees

Bill thinks it would be very important to consistently understand the goals and articulate them.

May 23 – ½ day for information gathering and feedback from the campus community.

A reminder from the February meeting – we have formed Steering Committee subcommittees to make an initial review of the NEASC subcommittee reports, bring their concerns back to the full steering committee for an opinion about whether to return the concerns to the authoring subcommittee.

Subcommittees

(Subcom Leaders):

Mission and Purposes - Peter H, Bill F, Eric G

(Bill)

Academic Programs – Mike Fiorentino, Jane F, Patrice G, Rob P

(Patrice)

Students – Matt C, Mel G,

(Mel)

Library, Information Services – Sheila S, Sherry H, Diane L, Ann H

(Sheila)

Public Disclosure and Integrity – Mike S, Terry C, Linda

(Mike)

Super-Subcommittee - Cathy C, Christine D, Charles S, Shirley W, Paul W

(Paul/Shirley)

Next Meeting: Monday, April 11th

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Horeanopoulos