



November 29, 2011

Do you like dessert and coffee? If you do, please mark your calendars for the “NEASC Grab Bag” on Thursday, December 1st from 2:30-4pm in the Leever Atrium outside of Mainstage (*this is a change in location*). The session will be broken into 15 minute segments. During each segment you’ll have the chance to review the work of one Standard - visit up to five during the 90 minutes we have scheduled. You’ll learn about the significant appraisal items that have arisen from their research and have a chance to give input to shape the rest of the process.

This week we’re highlighting the work being done by NEASC Standards Seven and Nine. If you have additional information you think would be useful to the work, or questions about it, contact the chair of that standard directly.

Standard Seven: Library and Other Information Resources (Pamela Tolbert-Bynum, Chair)

Committee Members: John Leonetti, Alison Wang, Zohra Rafey, Nephtali Villanueva, Karla Ekquist-Lechner

The committee has collected data from multiple sources to complete a thorough description of the College’s library, distance learning, and information technology departments as they relate to the access and use of information. Data sources included annual reports, in-depth interviewing, CCC policies, Survey Monkey 2011 fall faculty results, College policies and guidelines, audited financial statements, and NVCC Graduates’ satisfaction surveys.

In terms of description, the committee focused on the library’s resources, including print and non print items, as well as services provided by librarians, and use and accessibility of library resources and services. The committee was also able to highlight library processes designed to educate patrons, as well as services provided by librarians outside of the library itself and extended to the Danbury site. The distance learning and information technology departments were described in terms of support to faculty, students and staff. This includes technology-related training, technology needs and resources throughout the College, and specific policies that govern CCC IT resources.

The committee has now moved to the appraisal phase of its process to determine if we are meeting, not meeting, or even exceeding standards. Specifically, the appraisal is an analysis of library, Distance Learning, and Information Technology practices regarding the use and access of information resources.

Emerging appraisal items include:

1. Librarians exceed their responsibility to faculty and staff in terms of training.
2. Faculty appreciate and are satisfied with Distance Learning trainings and responsiveness.
3. Methods to assess library services and resources as they relate to students are inconsistent; system reports are largely statistical and do not provide qualitative data.
4. Library databases are accessible, yet faculty are concerned about the lack of specific databases relative to their fields of research.
5. Resources to fund IT equipment, software, and other technological needs beyond daily operations is an issue as capital bonding and STI bonding funds (Strategic Technology Initiative) – primary sources of funding for replacement computers, printers, projectors, software, etc. – are not guaranteed.
6. There is evidence of much collaboration and outreach between IT and the library, including the sharing of resources and knowledge.
7. Although the library is made more visible and accessible with a move to the fifth floor, its collections are also more accessible, and there is no funding for a security system.

Standard Nine: Financial Resources (Michael Labet, Chair)

The Standard 9 Committee has been hard at work reviewing the financial condition of the college as well as reviewing the policies and procedures for accounting, finance, budgeting, and financial aid. Most of the description was completed last year, and the committee is working on revisions to the descriptions. Preparation of the appraisal points for the financial resources standard have been the focus of the efforts during the this fall semester.

The committee is comprised of Sam Brown, Ed Klemeshefsky, Bill Verespy, Farshad Malek-Ahmadi, and Mike Labet. Harry Burt did an excellent job during the spring, helping with the description.

Sincerely,

Dean Sandra Palmer & Kim O'Donnell
Your NEASC Co-chairs