



April 3, 2012

It's hard to believe, but we are almost ready to share a "final" draft of the self-study report with the whole college. That will be available to everyone by the end of April and you'll see more information soon on opportunities and formats for sharing your feedback about the report.

This week, we'll highlight the Projections related to Standards Five (Faculty) and Eight (Physical and Technological Resources). Again, these are plans for the next few years that result from the areas of concern identified by each standard. Please look them over and give us feedback about anything that you believe needs to be changed in some way.

Overall, the Standard Five committee has found that NVCC meets and exceeds most of the NEASC standards concerning faculty. One area of concern that was highlighted concerned the integration of part-time faculty into the college community. While the committee has noted that there are several mechanisms in place to support such integration, the college will plan to organize a college wide meeting of part-time faculty at the start of each academic year. This will begin during the 2013-2014 Academic Year and will include a common orientation to the college. In addition, the Fall 2011 survey of faculty showed that there is some confusion about the nature of scholarly pursuits that are appropriate and available to NVCC faculty. During the 2012-2013 Academic Year Dean Palmer will work with the Center for Teaching to offer opportunities for conversation about these kinds of activities and their place in the life of NVCC faculty. Similarly, faculty expressed a desire for additional training in using our library resources for their own research. During the 2012-2013 Academic year, sessions focused on these skills will also be offered as a collaboration between library staff and the Center for Teaching. Finally, the college will develop more effective measurement of the effectiveness of the current advising model. This will be implemented over the next two academic years (2012-13 and 2013-14).

The concerns raised by Standard 8 include responses to the Fall 2011 survey of faculty and staff that revealed concern about the availability of training in the use of SMART classrooms as well as other technology (both in and outside the classroom). In response to this, the college will fill 3 empty IT positions prior to the Fall 2012 semester. The same survey indicated that faculty and staff do not have a strong understanding of campus improvements that have occurred in the last several years. To improve communication about these projects, Provost Troup will begin sending separate emails to the college when projects are started and again upon completion.

In addition, there were two more long term projections related to areas of concern noted by the Standard 8 committee. In response to concerns about the location of the Public Safety office, the college will plan to address space reallocation for that office as part of the Founders Hall renovation scheduled for completion during the 2015-2016 Academic Year. Finally, a Campuswide Improvement Project is scheduled for Summer 2014 and will address issues such as campus lighting that are related to concerns about safety and security.

Sincerely,

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