



February 21, 2012

As we move through the spring semester, the NEASC committees are focusing on addressing those elements of NVCC that are “areas of concern.” These are elements of the work we do at the college that have been identified as needing improvement or change. Some of these identified areas will be addressed over the next few weeks (indeed, some have already been addressed) while others will be identified as Projections – plans for change that we will include in our report.

Below you’ll find some of these items from Standard One (Mission and Purpose), Standard Two (Planning and Evaluation), and Standard Three (Governance).

Standard One has found that overall NVCC does a good job meeting the accreditation standards associated with Mission and Purpose. The committee has identified that some individual units at the college either do not have a mission statement, or have not made their statement readily available on the college website. The President’s cabinet will be asking all directors at the college to ensure that their mission statements are put on the college website by April 1st. In addition, all individual divisions and units will have a copy of their mission statement on display in their area by November 2012.

Standard Two identified the need for the creation of an Academic Master Plan, Enrollment Management Plan, Financial Plan, Technology Plan and Development Plan, culminating in development of a Master Plan. The first four (Academic, Enrollment, Financial, and Technology Plans) are reaching, or have reached, completion. A Development Plan is currently under development and should be available for review by the college community by the end of February. The creation of a Master Plan will be a longer term project and will be a Projection in the self-study with an anticipated completion date of Spring 2013.

Standard Two also identified the need for on-going evaluation of college services. To this end, the self-study report will include a Projection for the implementation of outcome surveys to monitor and improve performance of student services. This will include the creation of surveys of specific student services at strategic points in the semester (for example, surveys focused on the advising process at the end of each semester). In addition, the college will begin using the Personal Assessment of the College Environment survey as it relates to productivity, job satisfaction, communication and overall organizational climate. The anticipated implementation date for these projects is by the end of the Fall 2012 semester.

Standard Three continues to respond to the changes in our governance structure resulting from changes at the state level. Locally, they have identified the need for a central electronic depository for relevant meeting minutes to facilitate ease of access and transparency. We are still working on assigning responsibility and a timeline for this project, but it will be in the self-study as a Projection to be completed sometime after the Fall 2012 semester. Standard Three has also identified the need for continued monitoring of the Evening and Weekend Administrator function to assess the needs of those who serve in that role. Deans Palmer and Ortiz will have responsibility for this and that process will begin during Summer 2012.

Sincerely,

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