



March 20, 2012

We hope everyone is enjoying this amazing weather. The first day of spring is a reminder that we're approaching April and that we'll soon have a finished draft of the Self-Study report for everyone to review.

This week, we'll highlight the Projections related to Standards Nine (Financial Resources) and Ten (Public Disclosure). As a reminder, 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.

The work of Standard Nine has shown the college to be in good shape in terms of how we handle our finances. It comes as no great surprise that several difficult financial years have taken their toll in various ways, but the committee's review of this area shows that NVCC has managed the financial crisis fairly well. During the next academic year, the college will create a "Basic Capital Spending Plan" to ensure a formalized system that will include a review and approval process and will coordinate with the college's strategic plan. Jim Troup will have primary responsibility for this plan.

Standard Ten has had the task of reviewing how the college makes important information available to the college community and greater public audience. Most of this work has focused on our print publications and the college website. In response to this review, a great deal of recent work has occurred on the website, especially as missing or outdated information was addressed. In the coming weeks, the college will also create a plan for systematic review of web content for consistency and accuracy. This will be integrated into the workflow of the college.

There are several longer term plans related to Standard Ten. While we have yet to establish a final timeline for completion, the self-study will include plans to implement a method for gathering website analytics that will provide the college with important information about how our audience is using the website. Several items are planned to be completed during the next academic year. The employee directory, including credentials, will be completed. The college website will be improved to include information on which courses or personnel are not available in a given year. In addition, we will develop a system for ensuring consistency between our college catalog and the CommNet listing of courses. Finally, all transfer articulation agreements will be available on the website.

Sincerely,

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