

Northland Pioneer College
Strategic Planning and Accreditation Steering Committee (SPASC)
09-17-10

Members in attendance: Eric Bishop, Claude Endfield, Blaine Hatch, Gary Mack, Debbie Myers, Don Richie, Bill Solomon, Mark Vest (recorder)

Advisory members in attendance: Eric Henderson, Cindy Hildebrand, Jeanne Swarhout

1) Approval of Minutes from 5-7-2010

- Discussion: none
- Motion: Claude, to approve. Second, Deb Myers. Unanimous approval.

2) Review changes in accreditation ... distance ed, definition of credit, change request

Discussion:

- Jeanne – make sure all are aware of HLC pathway and definition changes, driven by Dept of Ed oversight. Distance Ed definition key for us. Beginning July 1, 2010, 50%+ of any program that is not face/face counts as distance ed – so a number of NPC degrees now qualify as distance ed. Anything new that is 50%+ will require change request.
- Jeanne – Dept of Ed also wanting to define credit hour. Lots of criticism from for profits, onlines, etc, which is to be expected. Will only affect NPC online courses.
- Jeanne – Dept of Ed desire to change definition of program eligible for Fin Aid; student must be hireable at salary level high enough to pay back loans.
- Gary M – Jeanne – general discussion about how you would define a credit hour other than through seat time. Issue is how to create equivalency between face/face seat time and online work. Feds focusing on process, rest of higher ed discussion focused on learning outcomes, so at odds with one another.

3) Brief review of Open Pathway and AQIP

- Eric B – introduced Gary Mack as new member.
- Eric B – background on new Open Pathway model.
- Jeanne – this is a critical change. We need to decide where to go.
- Eric B – info available on HLC site, harder to find than it used to be.
- Jeanne – We do annual report to HLC, which now includes financial monitoring in real time – with immediate response from HLC if issues emerge.
- Jeanne – we need to make a decision this semester on what pathway we want to do. Also, if we do OP, we need to select a project soon. Also, wants to consider inviting liaison in Year 4 if we do OP.

4) Identify what information SPASC needs to be clear on pathway alternatives and pathway requirements

- What info does committee need to make decision on OP vs. AQIP?
 - Claude – info from Jeanne’s November training, would we have that in time to make decision by end of fall semester?
 - Mark V - Any OP or AQIP portfolios or projects that are available?
 - Eric B – can liaison call in to one of our meetings to provide input? (Jeanne – yes, need to get right person, she’ll check w/HLC)
 - Jeanne – talk to your colleagues, gather input from them, ask for info based on that, and be prepared to make a recommendation.
 - Deb Myers – Set up a survey to gather input? Yes, but we need to get started quickly if so, to give time for everything.
 - Claude – could you do presentations at association meetings, then follow up with survey? Also do it at campus or center visits. Issue – low attendance at faculty/staff association meetings.
 - Eric B – rather than send whole HLC document, we should do a short (1page) document summarizing each pathway. ***Task: Eric Bishop will do AQIP, Jeanne will do OP. Deadline: Ready for SPASC meeting on October 1.***
- 5) Set plan for the year, timelines and decision points on accreditation pathway
- ***December 3, 2010 SPASC meeting – decision made on recommendation to president re: OP vs. AQIP***
 - January convocation – invite HLC rep to discuss what decision means. ***Task: for Jeanne: work on HLC rep.***
 - Mid-March 2011 – preliminary recommendation for what will be in Portfolio, regardless of chosen pathway.
 - Summer 2011 – begin populating Portfolio with information
- 6) Brainstorm ideas on how to get the college involved in pathway selection dialog
- See comments in agenda item #4.
- 7) Identify who at the institution needs to be at the table to begin defining portfolio content
- Jeanne – is it entire institution? Deb Myers, for one
 - Eric B – talked some about possible projects (Advancement section) at prior meetings
 - Jeanne – ***Task: For all SPASC members, come to October 1 meeting with list of college personnel who should be involved in defining portfolio content.***
- 8) Discuss having an HLC staff member come to FA 2011 convocation to discuss pathway choice with college
- Visit recommendation moved, see Agenda item #5
- 9) Other
- Jeanne – state meeting updates
 - Possible legislation – most is financial language tweaking by CBOs. Issue of CC State Board discussed. Proposal made to Governor’s Office to create a data

coordinating council rather than a governance board. Jeanne feels Governor's Office should like that approach.

- Governor signed common course numbering bill. Said she would provide funding to help with implementation (surprised all concerned).
- Joint Trustee CC presidents' meeting: Key issue – ABOR made strong positive statement about ABOR wanting to work with CCs. "We don't want to inherit you, but we want to work closely with in Getting Ahead." Jeanne felt good about meeting.
- Issue – how will CCs meet 2020 and Getting Ahead document goals? Presidents will be working on that in October/November.

Meeting adjourned at 9am, motion by Mark Vest, second by Don Richie, unanimous vote.