



FITCHBURG STATE
UNIVERSITY

ASSESSMENT DAY

The 2012 Self-Study

January 17, 2012



NEASC AND YOU

*HELP US TO SHAPE THE
FUTURE OF FITCHBURG
STATE UNIVERSITY.*

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NEASC Self Study Co-Chairs

Where Are We in the Process?

A review of the self-study
process and the upcoming
site visit

Getting Started

- In November 2010, President Antonucci issued a call for participation to the entire campus community. Under our system of shared governance, the faculty union chooses among its members for all committee assignments, the Student Government Association chooses the student committee representatives, while the President appoints administrators and staff.
- The response to this call to serve was immediate and overwhelming. Nearly 40% of the full-time faculty volunteered to serve in the process, far more than could be placed on committees. Committees were established shortly thereafter and began meeting in December 2010.

Broad Participation

- Our process consisted of a steering committee and five subcommittees responsible for reviewing the 11 standards for accreditation.
- In all, 101 members of the Fitchburg State community served in some capacity on these committees. These participants encompassed all constituencies including faculty, staff, students, administrators, trustees, and alumni.
- Hundreds of others participated in the process through open meetings, assessment day presentations, surveys, and focus groups

What Happens Next?

- The final document has been sent to NEASC.
- In addition to the NEASC committees, the document was shaped by comments from the ACC, the Graduate Council, the Department Chairs, and participants at three open sessions.
- The final document has been posted on the university web site and paper copies will be available in every academic department office for review.
- The dates for our site visit are March 4-7, 2012
- A team member will visit two extended campus sites.
- During this visit, members of the visiting team will want to meet with as many of you as possible and will have specific times set aside for each group.

NEASC Visit Details

- The bulk of the meetings will occur on Monday and Tuesday morning (March 5-6).
- From 4 to 5, on Monday, there will be three separate open meetings held in three different locations. One of these will be for just faculty, one for just staff (administrators and others) and one just for students.
- Other meetings will be set up for specific groups (times to be announced in the coming weeks).

Mission Quiz

- Which of the following is NOT one of the core values of Fitchburg State University?
 - a. Accessibility
 - b. Excellence
 - c. Community
 - d. Enrichment
 - e. Global Perspective
 - f. All of the above

Mission Quiz

- The mission statement of Fitchburg State University includes the following statement:
- “Our comprehensive public university prepares students to lead, serve, and succeed by fostering lifelong learning and civic and global responsibility.”
- True or False

Mission Quiz

- Which of the following are found in the Vision statement? Circle all that apply.
- Prepare students for a global society through curricular innovation and program development
- Achieve academic excellence by investing in our faculty and librarians in their pursuit of knowledge, professional competency, and scholarship.
- Employ innovative uses of technology in the library and across our campus to maximize student learning
- Create a culture of diversity to meet the needs of the region and enhance the personal and academic lives of the college community
- Build partnerships within our community to provide real-world opportunities for our students and collaborative solutions to community issues
- F. All of the above

What Does the Final Product Look Like?

- ✓ **Product:** The Self-Study Report: 100 pages plus forms
 - How do we meet the standards?
 - How well do we meet the standards?
 - What are our plans for improvement?

- ✓ **Process:** Studying the institution against the standards
 - Strengthen the culture of inquiry
 - Using evidence
 - Community reflecting together

3-PART FORMAT

DESCRIPTION: what do we do?

Succinct!

APPRAISAL: how well do we do it?

Analysis of strengths, concerns

PROJECTION: what do we commit to do?

Specific plans to address challenges

Summary of Projections

- In all, there are 38 projections contained in the self-study. These represent our areas of emphasis for the near term.
- The most came from Standard Four (the Academic Program) with nine. Standard Six (Students) had five projections. Standard Nine (Financial Resources) had four projections. No other standard has more than three in any area.

Standards 1,2, and 3

- During the 2011-12 academic year, the President will ensure that a campus-wide action be undertaken to openly discuss the implications of the name change from college to university regarding the mission of Fitchburg State.
- In an effort to engender more widespread familiarity with the university's mission, key aspects of it will be emphasized at public gatherings as well as in classroom discussions, and will be included, where appropriate, in print and electronic media. The offices of the President, academic affairs, student life, and external affairs will spearhead this effort beginning in 2012.

Standards 1,2, and 3

- A Comprehensive Academic Plan will be developed during the 2011-12 academic year. The VPAA will oversee the drafting of the plan and will be responsible for providing regular progress reports. All constituents will be provided with opportunities to present feedback on matters of interest as the plan is developed.

Standards 4 and 5

- During the 2011-12 academic year, led by the President in collaboration with the VPAA, the University will examine the administrative structure of the office of academic affairs to determine if it is the right fit for the institution as presently constituted.
- To ensure our emphasis on preparing global citizens is met, the VPAA will encourage the development of more courses, including languages, with the global diversity designation and increase numbers of study abroad opportunities to ensure availability to every student.

Standards 4 and 5

- The VPAA will create a working group consisting of faculty, students, and academic affairs administrators to, in coordination with the department chairs,
- · Conduct and evaluate an internal review of how reading, writing, critical analysis, and logical thinking are taught within our curriculum.
- · The review will consider where the above items are presently being taught within our curriculum (both within the major and in the general education program).
- · The committee will then look at other effective approaches for teaching these skills and how they compare with what we do.
- · The committee will summarize its findings and then make recommendations to the VPAA by May 2014.

Standards 4 and 5

- As part of the on-going academic planning process, the VPAA will facilitate conversations regarding academic integrity, especially as it relates to grade distributions, within departments and across programs.
- The Vice President for Academic Affairs in collaboration with the Academic Department Chairs will develop mechanisms to better support, encourage and highlight the achievements of the faculty with regard to research and creative activity.

Standard 6

- As part of the University's Strategic Plan, adopted in December 2009, Fitchburg State specifically committed to increase its student Hispanic population to 10%. The Dean of Enrollment Management will create a plan and provide regular updates to ensure that this remains on target for completion by 2014.
- Web-based degree evaluations for the undergraduate IDIS programs and all graduate programs will be developed by the Registrar's office in collaboration with department and program chairs by 2013.

Standards 7, 8, and 9

- During the 2012-13 academic year, a committee consisting of administrators, faculty, students and librarians will investigate and engage in a discussion of how we presently integrate information literacy instruction in academic and professional disciplines' curriculum and explore changes as needed to adopt a common framework.
- As funding allows, expand new teaching technologies into appropriate classrooms and shared study areas. The Technology Advisory Committee, in collaboration with the CIO, will annually select and prioritize locations and new capabilities for adoption throughout the campus as these technologies become available.

Standards 7,8, and 9

- As part of the annual progress report of the strategic plan, overseen by the two Vice Presidents, specific budgetary recommendations will be identified for IPEDS expenditure categories: e.g., instruction, research and public service, academic support, student service, institutional support, and maintenance of plant as well as prioritization for all capital projects.
- Within the next year, the Vice President for Institutional Advancement will conduct a formal analysis of the Fitchburg State University Foundation to determine the optimal staffing structure and business processes to increase the contribution to the University's operating budget in support of scholarships, academic programs, and student services.

Standards 10 and 11

- With the launch of the new website, the CIO will ensure clearly-defined responsibilities regarding web site maintenance. This will be coordinated by the CIO in cooperation with the executive cabinet.
- During the 2012-13 academic year, the Dean of Student and Academic Life will form a task force to examine our current Academic Integrity Policy to see if it is serving the needs of the campus community.
- A policy concerning intellectual property rights will be developed by the Dean of Student and Academic Life during AY 2012 for submission to the All College Committee. The Office of Human Resources will develop a complementary policy for staff within the same time frame.

Time for your
comments and
questions.