



INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING AND EFFECTIVENESS COUNCIL

Spring 2009

IPEC Membership
2008-09

Curtis Sommerfeld,
Chair
Kori Bieber
Mark Bony
Robert Felthousen
Chelsea Kelsey
John Lopez
Cheryl Markwell
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Mary O'Kief
Chip Phillips
Denise Swafford

Highlights:

New Standards
Accreditation
Goals Assessment
SENSE
Strategic Plan
Substantive Change

Revised Accreditation Standards Introduced

On June 1, 2009, Dr. Ronald L. Baker, Vice President and Director, Standards Revision and Implementation Project for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU or Commission) visited RCC to provide information for management, faculty and staff on revised accreditation standards and a new oversight process scheduled to be adopted by NWCCU in January 2010.

Every 10 years each accredited institution in the seven states covered by NWCCU, including Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, is scheduled for a full-scale evaluation, including a self-study, report of findings and host visit with peer evaluators. RCC is scheduled for this comprehensive evaluation in 2011. The new process includes a conversion from

the current 10-year cycle to a new 7-year cycle. For those institutions scheduled for evaluation in 2011, the Commission is offering the option to be evaluated under current standards outlined in the NWCCU *Accreditation Handbook (2003)* or the revised standards.

Dr. Baker said, "An accreditation standard is a principle-based statement of expectations for institutional practice that concurrently: (1) functions as an indicator of educational quality and effectiveness by which institutions are evaluated; and (2) provides guidance for continuous improvement." The new standards are:

1. Mission, Manifestation and Expectations;
2. Resources and Capacity;
3. Planning and Implementation;
4. Effectiveness and Improvement; and

5. Mission Fulfillment, Sustainability, and Adaptation. The standards are designed to address function and interest and would be predicated upon each institution's own unique set of core "themes" which are intended to be a "manifestation of a fundamental aspect of institutional mission with overarching common purpose that guides planning for programs, services, development of capacity, and application of resources to fulfill that aspect of the mission."

At its June 2 meeting, IPEC voted in favor of a recommendation to embrace the new methods. Either way RCC goes, the Council will develop a process engaging the entire college in the overall evaluation process over the next two years.

RCC Accreditation ReAffirmed

In August 2008, NWCCU reaffirmed accreditation for RCC based on the 2008 Focused Interim Evaluation regarding Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the *Fall 2006 Regular Interim Report*.

Reaffirmation included a request for the college to prepare a *Fall 2009 Progress Report* on three

recommendations including (1) Planning and Effectiveness, (2) Educational Program Planning and Assessment and (3) Part-time faculty evaluations. The Commission has also requested the college to host a visit with a peer evaluator in Fall 2009 on institutional planning. That visit is currently scheduled for October 9, 2009.

If you are interested in reviewing accreditation reports or documents, contact Denise Swafford, dswafford@roguecc.edu; Ext. 7087 or visit the website: www.roguecc.edu/Accreditation

Assessment Retreat

IPEC has scheduled an all-day retreat on Tuesday, July 21, to review and assess 2008-09 college goals and objectives.

To view the entire *2007-08 Assessment of Institutional Goals and Objectives Report*, go to www.roguecc.edu/Accreditation and select Assessment Reports.

Anyone interested in participating in the assessment process should contact Curtis Sommerfeld, curt@roguecc.edu; Ext. 7238

New Accreditation Website

Copies of accreditation reports, affirmation letters and related information may be found on the RCC Website: www.roguecc.edu/Accreditation.

IPEC meeting minutes and newsletters are located on the college's intranet under Council and Committees/IPEC.

For questions or comments about any issues in this newsletter, please contact one of the Council members (page 1).

SENSE

A new student survey – SENSE (Survey of Entering Student Engagement) is being administered at community colleges in Oregon statewide this year in the fourth and fifth weeks of fall term. The survey is designed for students at community and technical colleges with a focus on their “front door” experiences. Students are selected at random based on courses most commonly taken by newly enrolled students.

SENSE was developed based on research about what works in retaining and supporting entering students and centers on institutional practices and student behaviors in the early weeks of college. SENSE data can be useful in improving course completion rates and overall student retention.

Help Wanted

Anyone interested in helping to write and edit accreditation reports is encouraged to contact ALO, Denise Swafford; dswafford@roguecc.edu; 541-956-7087.

2008-12 STRATEGIC PLAN

The first year of RCC's 2008-2012 Strategic Plan (SP) is nearing completion. On June 2nd, the strategic planning champions including Kori Bieber (Goal E), Margaret Bradford (Goal E), Dan Buck (Goal E), Erika Geissen (Goal B), Pat Huebsch (Goal B), Rich Kirk (Goal B), Cheryl Markwell (Goal B, E and F), Brad Ross (Goal E), Curtis Sommerfeld (Goal D), Serena St. Clair (Goal C), and Lynda Warren (Goal A) reported on their progress in the past year. Clearly, much good work has been accomplished which will be shared with the college community in a report called the *2008-09 Strategic Planning Summative Report* -- soon available at the RCC SP Website: www.roguecc.edu/StrategicPlan. As with any plan, there were also recommendations to modify specific institutional goals and objectives starting in 2009-10. An expanded IPEC group will do the full institutional assessment, in July. Departmental assessments, champion accomplishments, and recommendations to modify certain institutional goals and objectives will be considered at that time.

The strategic plan will be an important tool in preparing for the College's comprehensive self-study and evaluation due in 2011. An important component of the *Revised Accreditation Standards* includes identification of core themes (see page 1). The Strategic Plan and related reports are available on the Website referenced above or by contacting Mary O'Kief, mokief@roguecc.edu; Ext. 7596 or 7283.

Progress on Distance Learning

On June 2, 2009, RCC submitted a major substantive change report to NWCCU, informing the Commission that a fully online Associate of Arts, Oregon Transfer degree is nearing completion. NWCCU requires that new online degrees be carefully designed to ensure compliance with the same standards and expectations as in on-campus, classroom sections. RCC notified the Commission that career/technical degrees in Electronics Technology, Business Technology, and Early Childhood and Elementary Education are also nearing full online availability.