



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Office of the Provost

Office of Planning & Assessment

Institutional Effectiveness Weekly Report

December 8, 2017

Special Report – New SACSCOC Principles

The Office of Planning and Assessment reports its weekly activities and contributions toward Texas Tech University's institutional effectiveness efforts and departmental objectives.

At the 2017 SACSCOC Annual Meeting, the College Delegate Assembly (CDA) voted on December 5, 2017 to significantly revise the *Principles of Accreditation*. The revised *Principles* are now re-organized into 14 distinct sections:

- Section 1: The Principle of Integrity
- Section 2: Mission
- Section 3: Basic Eligibility Standards
- Section 4: Governing Board
- Section 5: Administration and Organization
- Section 6: Faculty
- Section 7: Institutional Planning and Effectiveness
- Section 8: Student Achievement
- Section 9: Educational Program Structure and Content
- Section 10: Educational Policies, Procedures, and Practices
- Section 11: Library and Learning/Information Resources
- Section 12: Academic and Student Support Services
- Section 13: Financial and Physical Resources
- Section 14: Transparency and Institutional Representation

Addition of New Standards

All of the revisions discussed in this report emerged after significant year-long debate among the SACSCOC community. Among the most notable changes are two new standards: **one on Board Evaluation (R 4.2g) and one on Student Debt (R 12.6)**.

Deleted Standards

Six standards were deleted from the former 2012 Principles of Accreditation.

1. **CS 3.2.14 (Intellectual property rights)**
2. **CS 3.3.1.4 (Institutional effectiveness, research)**
3. **CS 3.3.1.5 (Institutional effectiveness, community public service)**

4. **CS 3.2.7 (Organizational structure)**
5. **CS 3.4.2 (Continuing education/service programs)**
6. **CS 3.5.4 (Terminal degrees of faculty)**

Significantly Reworded Standards

In the newly reworded standard on Institutional Effectiveness (formerly 2.5), the institution must demonstrate that it “engages in ongoing, comprehensive, and integrated research-based planning and evaluation processes that (a) focus on institutional quality and effectiveness and (b) incorporate a systematic review of institutional goals and outcomes consistent with its mission.” *Previously, the former language emphasized “results,” whereas the new rewording uses the phrase “focus on...”*

The former standard of CS 3.4.1 (Academic Program Approval) was re-written to specify that “educational programs for which academic credit is awarded are approved consistent with institutional policy.” *The former policy indicated that that these programs were “approved by the faculty and the administration.”*

Interestingly, the former CS 3.4.11 (Academic Program Coordination) required that institutions assign responsibility for program coordination, and that these persons are “academically qualified in the field.” *The revised standard drops that requirement, saying only that appropriate responsibility for program coordination must be assigned.*

Former CS 3.7.3 (Faculty Development) was revised to indicate that faculty members must be provided “professional development opportunities...as teachers, scholars, and practitioners, consistent with the institutional mission.” *The word “opportunities” was inserted into the final draft of this standard.*

Delegate Voting

Dr. Darryl James, SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison, voted as a representative of Texas Tech University. The following photo was taken during the voting process.



Implications of Principles Revisions for Texas Tech's Fifth Year Interim Report

With the new Principles now formalized, OPA will begin taking significant action steps to prepare for the Fifth Year Interim Report. Texas Tech's Fifth Year Interim Report is due in March 2021.

Our immediate action steps including preparing a plan to publicly publish our student loan default rate (per Requirement 4.2g) and notifying the BoR of the new expectations regarding Board evaluation (per Requirement 12.6). Darryl James and Jennifer Hughes will meet during the week of December 10 to further discuss.

In addition, OPA will revisit a document prepared on September 1, 2017 (attached to this email for convenience) that proposed possible Fifth Year Interim steering committee leaders. We will discuss these recommendations made several months ago to ensure they are still viable.

OPA's student assistant, Maddi Busy, has prepared two Fifth Year Interim report logos. As we begin to unfold our public message regarding the upcoming report, we would like to use one of the following logos. We ask Dr. James to choose between these two images. Both images have already been formally approved by the Office of Communication & Marketing.



Lastly, we will closely study the new *Principles* revisions that are part of the Fifth Year Interim report template (see below). The Fifth Year Interim Report includes 25 standards.

Parallel Standards for Future Fifth-Year Interim Reports

Current Principles	Proposed Standards
Faculty CR 2.8	CR 6.1 and R 6.2.b
Student Support Services CR 2.10	CR 2.1
Qualified administrative staff CS 3.2.8	R 5. 4 in part
Student achievement and student learning FR 4.1 and CS 3.3.1.1	CR 8.1 and R 8.2.a
Admission policies, recruitment, advertising, etc. CS 3.4.3, FR 4.3, FR 4.6	R 10.2 R 10.5 in part
Curricula CS 3.4.11 and FR 4.2	CR 9.1 R 6.2.c
Physical facilities CS 3.11.3	R 13.7
Program length FR 4.4	CR 9.2
Student complaints FR 4.5 & policy CS 3.13	R 12.4
Title IV Program compliance FR 4.7, CS 3.10.2	R 13.6
* Distance Education FR 4.8	R 10.6 a-c
*Credit hour determination FR 4.9	R 10.7
*Representation of status, etc. Policy CS 3.14	R 14.1
*Review of DL, off-site, branch, etc Policy CS 3.13	R 14.3
Other policies (for additional Dear Colleague Letters CS 3.13	R 14.4 and R 10.9 and R 12.4 (in part) R 14.1 and R 10.3 and R 10.5
Safe & secure environment (new for Fifth-Year) CS 3.11.2	R 13.8

* Denotes requirements from DOE "Dear Colleague Letters"

Approved: Executive Council, June 2017

Presentations at the 2017 Annual Meeting

Two Texas Tech presentations were accepted to the Annual Meeting. First, Darryl James, Kathy Austin, and Jennifer Hughes presented "An IE Course Correction at Texas Tech." We were pleased to have 132 attendees at this concurrent session.

Jennifer Hughes and Craig Morton facilitated a group discussion on "Preparing a 3.3.1.1 Monitoring Report." This presentation was offered in a rotating 15-minute format. We were pleased to have 53 attendees, especially at a 7:30AM start time.



The Office of Planning and Assessment contributes to the university mission by promoting and leading institutional effectiveness activities; facilitating the measurement and analysis of institutional assessment data, and supporting institutional compliance with the State of Texas, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), and providing substantive feedback to the institution and its component units that ensure evidence of continuous improvement.

Texas Tech University is accredited with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, masters, and doctorate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Texas Tech University.

[Click here](#) to view a letter from our director, Jennifer Hughes.



JAN 29 Spring 2018 Syllabi Upload Deadline

Tweets by @TTUOPA



TTU OPA @TTUOPA
Dr. Jennifer Hughes presenting at SACSCOC.



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Happy Halloween from OPA!