Reaffirmation Progress

Overall, the Office of Planning and Assessment (OPA) is making steady progress toward the established January 31, 2014 deadline to submit draft responses. Since October 1, 2013, the Office of Planning and Assessment received ten response drafts for formal review. In all cases, the authors have received the drafts back for revision. When evaluating each response, OPA has utilized a standard rubric evaluation process to ensure that each response is adequate and appropriate.

Since October 1, 2013, the Office of Planning and Assessment has focused its efforts on preparing budget and resource documents to submit to Provost Schovanec. Furthermore, OPA began logistical and tactical planning for the on-site reaffirmation visit that will occur February 24-26, 2015.

Lastly, the Office of Planning and Assessment has prepared a comprehensive document that provides specific content recommendations to the Law School, based upon peer SACSCOC institutions that also have schools/colleges of law. The OPA staff has reviewed SACSCOC documentation from Florida State University, Stetson University, and the University of Kentucky as exemplars.

Based upon this analysis, OPA has created a document that recommends specific content from the Law School. Dr. Jennifer Bard serves as the point-of-contact for all Law School references within the Compliance Certification Report (CCR).

[continued on page 2]

West Texas Assessment Conference

On October 16th, the Office of Planning and Assessment (OPA) organized the second annual West Texas Assessment Conference at the Overton Hotel and Conference center. The purpose of this conference was to unite higher education professionals across West Texas and the surrounding areas to discuss issues related to planning, assessment, and accreditation.

The 2013 conference was co-hosted by the Office of Planning and Assessment at Texas Tech University, the Office of Institutional Planning and Assessment at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and the Office of Accountability at Angelo State University.

These three institutions hosted a total of 18 presentations, nine in the morning and nine in the afternoon. Topics for presentations included assessment, academic support programs, transfer student assessment, and distance education learning outcomes.
West Texas Assessment Conference [continued from page 1]

Presenters represented numerous universities in Texas, one from New Mexico, and many Texas community colleges. In addition, attendees enjoyed a powerful keynote address by Russell Lowery-Hart, Ph.D., Vice-President of Academic Affairs at Amarillo College. Dr. Lowery-Hart discussed the new Texas Core Curriculum Reformation that will take effect Fall 2014.

With Gratitude...

We would like to thank all of the presenters, attendees, and the institutions they represented for their participation in WTAC this year.

Abilene Christian University, Amarillo College, Angelo State University, Central Texas College, Cisco College, Eastern New Mexico University (NM), Emporia State University (KS), Howard College, Lone Star College System, Lubbock Christian University, McLennan Community College, Midland College, New Mexico Junior College (NM), North Central Texas College, Northeast Lakeview College, Odessa College, South Plains College, Southern Methodist University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas State Technical College—West Texas, Texas Tech University, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Texas Tech University ISD, Texas Wesleyan University, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Vernon College, West Texas A&M University, and Western Texas College.
Update from SACSCOC Annual Meeting

At the conclusion of the annual meeting, Dr. Nuria Cuevas (TTU’s SACSCOC Vice President) presented a list of the top ten problematic standards for off-site and on-site reviews during its most recent review of the Class of 2013 institutions.

Top Ten Problematic Standards for Off-Site Reviews

- CS 3.7.1 (Faculty competence)
- CS 3.3.2 (Quality enhancement plan)
- FR 4.4.1 (Academic program coordination)
- CR 2.8 (Faculty)
- CS 3.3.1.3 (Institutional effectiveness; academic and student support services)
- CS 3.2.14 (Intellectual property rights)
- CS 3.3.1.2 (Institutional effectiveness; administrative support services)
- CS 3.3.1.5 (Institutional effectiveness; community/public service)
- CS 3.5.1 (General education competencies)
- CS 3.3.1.4 (Institutional effectiveness; research)
- CS 3.10.1 (Financial stability) and CS 3.10.3 (Control of finances)

Top Ten Problematic Standards for On-Site Reviews

- CS 3.3.2 (Quality enhancement plan)
- CS 3.3.1.1 (Institutional effectiveness: educational programs)
- CS 3.3.1.3 (Institutional effectiveness: academic and student support services)
- CS 3.7.1 (Faculty competence)
- CS 3.3.1.2 (Institutional effectiveness: administrative support services)
- CS 3.3.1.5 (Institutional effectiveness: community/public service)
- CS 3.5.1 (General education competencies)
- CS 3.3.1.4 (Institutional effectiveness: research)
- CS 3.10.1 (Financial stability) and CS 3.10.3 (Control of finances)

CAAP Assessment

During the fall semester of 2013, The Office of Planning and Assessment administered the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) Science Test. The CAAP, a nationally normed test, was administered as part of the university’s institutional assessment of student core curriculum performance.

The CAAP Science Test took two weeks to complete and involved five OPA staff members who visited nearly 30 classes, from all TTU colleges including the TTU Waco campus. At the end of the two week period, over 500 students were assessed.

Currently, the formal report for the CAAP assessment is being written. Upon completion, it will be linked to the OPA website and available for your perusal.

The Office of Planning and Assessment would like to thank the following faculty members for being willing collaborators in this endeavor:

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