

Summary of Exit Meeting
With the Higher Learning Commission Peer Review Team
March 3, 2010

Site team will recommend:

- Full reaccreditation for 10 years
- No interim activity
- Change request be approved

Overall observation - students love their experiences at UW, as do faculty

Observations

Criterion I – Mission and Integrity

- Extraordinary board – strong, dynamic with an excellent handle on their responsibility for providing oversight
- Solid institutional and state relationships
- Impressed with the university, and particularly the President’s interactions with and commitment to the state
- Faculty and staff in the institution know what’s going on

Criterion II – Preparing for the Future

- Recent budget exercise was true to the planning process
- External peer comparators used appropriately in planning and day-to-day operations
- Impressed with how UW has moved forward with the budget process

Criterion III – Student Learning and Effective Teaching

- Significant improvements in assessment, but not quite there
- Commitment to teaching excellence – evidenced in conversations with faculty and students; students talk about positive interactions with caring faculty
- Significant investment to teaching through the ECTL – it’s making a difference
- The “commons” in the Library supports learning in a positive way
- Impressed with partnerships/collaborations between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs

Criterion IV – Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge

- UW recognizes its obligation to stakeholders and constituents and acts upon those obligations
- Impressed with how UW balances vying priorities
- Commend aggressive development in external support for signature efforts

- Strong faculty/student partnerships

Criterion V – Engagement and Service

- Laud UW's strong efforts to meet Wyoming residents where they are – distance education, outreach programs, cooperative extension, athletics
- Mindful of the needs of future students – articulation agreements, P-16 Council and extensive collaborations with K-12
- Actively working to keep constituents engaged – WPR, alumni magazine, news releases

Advice

- Measure effects of reorganization of graduate education and closure of graduate school on graduate students over the next few years; work on assessment of grad programs
- Attention should be given to the effectiveness of academic advising; possibly affect on retention...
- Salary and compensation rates still have a way to go, particularly for senior faculty
- Sustainability of interdisciplinary programs over time in question; how do we better maintain these efforts?
- Maintenance budgets for new facilities
- UP3 is a strong academic planning document, but there needs to be additional attention to other elements of the university
- Indirect cost recovery allocation too conservative – revisit formulas
- More support for Research Office for pre- and post-award support
- Mindful of diversity

Next Steps

- Anticipate completion of the peer review team's report to HLC in next 30 – 45 days; draft to UW for factual corrections
- Subsequent review of the report by the Accreditation Review Council, Boards, etc. over the next 3 – 5 months.