

ACCREDITATION CHRONICLE

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UNIT REPORTS REQUESTED

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THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCREDITATION:

- Provides an opportunity to thoroughly evaluate the University.
- Maintains the quality of education for all students.
- Attracts qualified personnel, which improves our educational offerings.
- Protects from undue government influence on how we operate.



As discussed in the last issue of the *Accreditation Chronicle*, the criteria subcommittees need input from you. This week the Self-Study Steering Committee will be issuing a request to most of the assessment units on campus to complete a report. The committee would like the unit leaders (managers, chairs, or directors), who receive a report request, to involve as many of the members of their unit as possible in the process of compiling answers to the questions asked. This will help the committee demonstrate broad involvement across the campus in this process, meeting the requirements of the Higher Learning Commission. Continued on **Page 3**.

ELECTRONIC SURVEYS COMING

While the unit report requests will provide information at the department or division level, the Self-Study also needs input from each individual on campus. As a result, you will see a request for you to respond to an individual electronic survey within the next month or so. Continued on **Page 2**.



The survey will only take ten to fifteen minutes, but your participation and information are imperative for the successful completion of the Self-Study.

The Self-Study is nothing without the people who participate in it.

We are frequently asked to complete similar electronic surveys on campus and the temptation is to put them off or to ignore them altogether. The Steering Committee recognizes that everyone's schedule is full, but would like to request that you give serious consideration to the survey when you are prompted to respond. The survey will only

ELECTRONIC SURVEYS CONT. (from page 1)

take ten to fifteen minutes, but your participation and information are imperative for the successful completion of the Self-Study. With each investment of time made to this project, the potential university return grows. Thank you ahead of time for your input.

Who is the Self-Study? John Wambold



John Wambold serves as Director of Community Ministries in the Division of Christian Ministries. John serves on the University Assessment Committee. Under the leadership of Vice-President Bob Rohm, John spearheaded the process of formalizing assessment in the Division of Christian Ministries.

As a result of his leadership and the cooperation of the other directors in his division, Christian Ministries lead the way in completing mission and objective statements, determining assessment tools, and establishing benchmarks. John then went beyond the call of duty to round up program descriptions, policy statements, application forms and public relations documents. These items will be invaluable for the Self-Study subcommittees and resource room collection. Kudos to John Wambold for his leadership and to the members of his division for their work and cooperation. John and his colleagues represent well the hard work and positive attitude that will allow for the successful completion of the Self-Study. Thanks John!

Self-Study and Assessment: What's the Difference?

While the assessment procedure and the Self-Study project are frequently mentioned in the same breath, they are two different processes. Assessment, under the able leadership of the Director of Institutional Research, Dr. Sharon Johnson, and the University Assessment Committee, is designed to assess university effectiveness in light of stated objectives. The assessment process is completed at the subunit level. Assessment results will be used for program revision, strategic and operational planning, and budgeting in the future. The Self-Study is a report required by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) as part of the process of seeking

reaccreditation. The Self-Study is a broad-based evaluation of the university focusing on five criteria established by the HLC. The

assessment process will provide vital information for the Self-Study project, but that is not the only purpose for it. The assessment process will continue to be a regular practice, even after the completion of the Self-Study and the site-team visit in the Spring of 2007, helping the university family meet its objectives and fulfill its mission. Included in this issue is a chart of the two processes that helps to illustrate the differences between them.

(See insert)



Unit Reports cont. (from page 1)

The reports will be both informative and evaluative, providing necessary material to the subcommittees as they address the criteria assigned to them. In compiling the questions, the

Steering Committee, with input from the subcommittees, endeavor-



to keep the report as short as possible. In addition, answers are to be brief. Substantive and timely responses to this report request are essential to the success of the Self-Study process. We need these reports submitted before the end of the semester. Please make them a priority, and thank you in advance!

**SUBSTANTIVE
AND TIMELY RE-
SPONSES TO
THIS REPORT RE-
QUEST ARE ES-
SENTIAL TO THE
SUCCESS OF THE
SELF-STUDY
PROCESS.**

Visit the Accreditation website for further information about the Self-Study and Assessment processes.



For more information about the NCA, visit their web page at www.ncacasi.org.

Cedarville University
251 N. Main St.
Cedarville, OH
45314

SELF-STUDY



The Self-Study Steering Committee has continued its work this Spring Semester. Before the end of the semester, the Steering Committee hopes to hear back from the Higher Learning Commission regarding the site-team visit dates and to see all of the unit reports returned by graduation so they can be compiled before fall. The Criteria Subcommittees have been learning about the criteria assigned to them and the types of information needed to evaluate the university on their basis. They

have compiled questions for the unit reports to obtain information and evaluation that cannot be gained through other sources. These groups are also crafting questions for the individual surveys to be submitted to the campus in the near future. The goal of the subcommittees is to decide what information is needed and outline their respective chapters before the summer break. One final update, the Administrative Council and the Board of Trustees are considering the proposed university mission and objective statements presented to them in December. Once the Board has approved the final version, it will be presented to the campus.

To CONTACT US

Dr. Thomas Mach
Self-Study Coordinator
937-766-7936
macht@cedarville.edu

Mrs. Carla Gaines
Assistant to the Coordinator
937-766-4469
gainesc@cedarville.edu

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- * Assessment links
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