

Northland Pioneer College
Strategic Planning and Accreditation Steering Committee (SPASC)
02-20-09

In attendance: Donna Ashcraft, Eric Bishop, Pat Canary, Russell Dickerson, Blaine Hatch, Ann Hess, Cindy Hildebrand, Jeanne Swarthout, John Velat, Mark Vest, Hallie Lucas (recorder)

- I. Approval of 02-06-09 Minutes a. Pat moved to approve the minutes; second by Mark.
b. 02-06-09 SPASC minutes approved unanimously.

- II. Subcommittee Reports a. Criterion 1: Nothing to report.
b. Criterion 2: The team has not met this semester.
c. Criterion 3: The team does not have a report.
d. Criterion 4: The team has not met.
e. Criterion 5: The team has not met; however, they did give a report at the NPC District Governing Board this week. Troy Eagar and Julie Holtan were entertaining as Julie gave her impression of Julia Child in the kitchen.
f. Data: The team does not have a report.
g. Communications: The team has not met.
h. Assessment Academy: The team met and discussed the gen. ed. project and the HLC assessment academy project. They have another meeting scheduled.
i. Student Focus: There was no meeting; however, they will have something to share during the next SPASC meeting.

III. Update: Our response to HLC regarding the October team a. We responded to the HLC regarding the proposed team members for the October visit. We did not find a conflict of interest on our side. The next step is for the commission to contact the team members to check for conflicts of interest.

- IV. Discussion: Self Study Draft – Input/Feedback, etc. a. You should all have Chapters 1 through 7 of the Self Study Draft by now. i. Donna has received some feedback, while others are still responding.
ii. So far, the responses have been minor revisions and changes.
b. In order conserve space, subtitles have been taken out; however, several committee members see them as helpful.
c. Hyperlinks will be changed from the long addresses to the name of the organization or document.
d. We need more charts and graphs.
e. Make sure to watch for repetitiveness; although, Jeanne noted that sometimes repetition is important to include. Donna wants input on where repetition is appropriate.

f. Will each chapter have a summary at the end? i. Challenges will first be listed at the end of the chapter and then the recommendations.

g. These seven chapters are currently 104 pages. Subtitles, charts and recommendations will be inserted.

h. Donna will need help with Chapters 8 and 9.

i. Chapter 8 is “New Initiatives and the Future of our Students” i. Technology (John will take the lead).

ii. Retention (collective efforts will be under Student Services – Donna and Mark will discuss it).

iii. Assessment (Eric H. and the Assessment Academy will take the lead).

iv. These three points are ours, and they are not dictated by the HLC. We may need to reconsider and/or broaden the chapter to student learning and teaching (a low-light of this being retention) and continuous improvement in the workplace and support for students.

v. We will gather our forces in terms of what we are currently doing (and can continue to do without more funding) and update the chapter later with up-to-date information.

j. Chapter 9 is another place of summing up of what we already have in the document; however, the below listed main points need to be covered and reinforced. Eric B. noted that these should tie in with our vision and values. i. The Future-Oriented Organization

1. More details needed about future initiatives.

2. Input needed from everyone as to what NPC will look like in five years.

ii. The Learning-Focused Organization

iii. The Connected Organization

iv. The Distinctive Organization

1. We are different from most colleges and universities in the United States.

2. We are moving toward budgeting accountability through broadening out participation level in the budgeting process, holding ourselves accountable through the Strategic Plan, increasing surveys and internal checks, etc.

3. We are in one of the poorest, most remote, and least populated areas in Arizona and the United States; however, we still have to provide the same level of service.

4. We have a vastly different student population.

5. We have a large percentage of students who participate in distance learning.

6. Our curriculum is distinctive and includes Tribal Court Advocacy, Tribal Head Start ECD training, Heritage Preservation, recruiting and retaining native nursing students and Petrified Wood Seminars that bring in people internationally.

7. People outside the college are amazed at our scope of services and the various methods that we deliver those including telecommunications and travel.

8. Mark noted that “Everything here costs more and takes longer” because we have committed to serve the whole district and not just the part of the district that is easiest to serve.

9. Our challenges include geographical and logistical and our IS Website (entertaining, but true) illustrates some of the unique challenges we face.

10. Donna may interview new faculty members to see how they view our working environment differently from other places they have worked.

k. We also need to set a date to look at the plan and decide what things should be transferred over and what things are done. i. Task: Individuals who are responsible for specific items in the strategic plan, need to notify Donna within the next two months as to which things are done (she will include them in the Self Study).

l. The miscellaneous data page in MyNPC will be moved to the HLC resource center for quick and easy access.

m. Recent changes that can be shown and emphasized in the Self Study include: i. Full-fledged archives.

ii. Resource Center.

iii. Progress with budgeting, accounting, and finance.

iv. Advancement on dashboarding and standardized reports.

v. Articulation.

vi. ACRES.

vii. Non-returning Student Survey with comments forwarded to the affected departments.

viii. Assessment & program reviews getting back on track.

ix. Communication through the All College Forums.

x. Opening up President's Performance Review for faculty/staff to make comments.

xi. Public comments that can be made on the Website.

xii. Climate commitment - Sustainability First Committee.

n. Keep the critiques of the chapters coming in. Be harsh if necessary. Once the recommendations are in place, it was agreed that there is no need for the committee to review it again before it goes out to NPC (early March).

o. Self Study will have a simple look – clean and professional.

V. Other a. Motion made by Blaine to adjourn; second by Pat.

b. Unanimously approved.