April 2015
Newsletter #10

With this newsletter we complete the presentation of the Criteria for Accreditation and the Assumed Practices that make up the standards that will be reviewed during the upcoming reaffirmation of accreditation of Wright State University by the Higher Learning Commission. Wright State will be hosting the team of peer reviewers from the Higher Learning Commission on March 21 and 22, 2016. These newsletters are part of our campus preparation for the upcoming re-accreditation visit by informing the campus community of the goals and process of accreditation.

Assumed Practices: In addition to the five criteria for accreditation, the Higher Learning Commission defines a set of practices that each accredited institution is assumed to meet. The assumed practices are not the focus of the re-affirmation visit since it is expected that every accredited institution satisfies these conditions. However, if any questions arise concerning these practices either in the assurance argument submitted to the Higher Learning Commission or by the team visiting our campus, they have responsibility to request information to ensure that the practice is followed. Failure to meet an assumed practice may result in a sanction to the institution.

There are four categories of assumed practices: Integrity, Ethical and Responsible Conduct; Teaching and Learning, Quality, Resources, and Support; Teaching and Learning, Evaluation and Improvement; and Resources, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness. Today’s newsletter highlights institutional resources and alignment with planning. The subcommittee reviewing Wright State’s compliance with the assumed practices is led by Dr. Kimberly Barrett and Dr. Melissa Gruys.

**Assumed Practices:**

**D. Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness**

1. The institution is able to meet its current financial obligations.
2. The institution has a prepared budget for the current year and the capacity to compare it with budgets and actual results of previous years.
3. The institution has future financial projections addressing its long-term financial sustainability.
4. The institution maintains effective systems for collecting, analyzing, and using institutional information.
5. The institution undergoes an external audit by a certified public accountant or a public audit agency that reports financial statements on the institution separately from any other related entity or parent corporation. For private institutions the audit is annual; for public institutions it is at least every two years.
6. The institution’s administrative structure includes a chief executive officer, chief financial officer, and chief academic officer (titles may vary) with appropriate credentials and experience and sufficient focus on the institution to ensure appropriate leadership and oversight. (An institution may outsource its financial functions but must have the capacity to assure the effectiveness of that arrangement.)
Information on the reaffirmation of accreditation process, including Wright State’s history of accreditation and the Open Pathway process that we are currently undergoing, is available at http://www.wright.edu/academic-affairs/accreditation.

From: Higher Learning Commission Criteria for Accreditation

The Higher Learning Commission