REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION

February, 2015
Newsletter #8

Wright State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. As part of maintaining accreditation, Wright State’s programs and processes are periodically reviewed to ensure institutional quality and integrity. Wright State will be undergoing the 10 year Reaffirmation of Accreditation in the 2015-2016 academic year. 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.

Open Forum: Wright State’s reaccreditation visit is scheduled for March 21, 22 2016. We will have an open forum to discuss our progress, preparation, and what to expect in the next year.

HLC Reaffirmation of Accreditation Open Forum
March 20, 2015
12:30-1:30 Endeavor (E156) Student Union

Everyone is invited, please plan to attend. Lunch will be served, additional information will follow.

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. The subcommittee reviewing Wright State’s compliance with the assumed practices is led by Dr. Kimberly Barrett and Dr. Melissa Gruys.

Assumed Practices: Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

1. The institution has a conflict of interest policy that ensures that the governing board and the senior administrative personnel act in the best interest of the institution.

2. The institution has ethics policies for faculty and staff regarding conflict of interest, nepotism, recruitment and admissions, financial aid, privacy of personal information, and contracting.

3. The institution provides its students, administrators, faculty, and staff with policies and procedures informing them of their rights and responsibilities within the institution.

4. The institution provides clear information regarding its procedures for receiving complaints and grievances from students and other constituencies, responds to them in a timely manner, and analyzes them to improve its processes.

5. The institution makes readily available to students and to the general public clear and complete information including:
a. statements of mission, vision, and values
b. full descriptions of the requirements for its programs, including all pre-requisite courses
c. requirements for admission both to the institution and to particular programs or majors
d. policies on acceptance of transfer credit, including how credit is applied to degree requirements. (Except for courses articulated through transfer policies or institutional agreements, the institution makes no promises to prospective students regarding the acceptance of credit awarded by examination, credit for prior learning, or credit for transfer until an evaluation has been conducted.)
e. all student costs, including tuition, fees, training, and incidentals; its financial aid policies, practices, and requirements; and its policy on refunds
f. policies regarding academic good standing, probation, and dismissal; residency or enrollment requirements (if any)
g. a full list of its instructors and their academic credentials
h. its relationship with any parent organization (corporation, hospital, or church, or other entity that owns the institution) and any external providers of its instruction.

6. The institution assures that all data it makes public are accurate and complete, including those reporting on student achievement of learning and student persistence, retention, and completion.

7. The institution portrays clearly and accurately to the public its current status with the Higher Learning Commission and with specialized, national, and professional accreditation agencies.

a. An institution offering programs that require specialized accreditation or recognition by a state licensing board or other entity in order for its students to be certified or to sit for the licensing examination in states where its students reside either has the appropriate accreditation and recognition or discloses publicly and clearly the consequences to the students of the lack thereof. The institution makes clear to students the distinction between regional and specialized or program accreditation and the relationships between licensure and the various types of accreditation.

b. An institution offering programs eligible for specialized accreditation at multiple locations discloses the accreditation status and recognition of the program by state licensing boards at each location.

c. An institution that provides a program that prepares students for a licensure, certification, or other qualifying examination publicly discloses its pass rate on that examination, unless such information is not available to the institution.

8. The governing board and its executive committee, if it has one, include some “public” members. Public members have no significant administrative position or any ownership interest in any of the following: the institution itself; a company that does substantial
business with the institution; a company or organization with which the institution has a substantial partnership; a parent, ultimate parent, affiliate, or subsidiary corporation; an investment group or firm substantially involved with one of the above organizations. All publicly-elected members or members appointed by publicly-elected individuals or bodies (governors, elected legislative bodies) are public members.¹

9. The governing board has the authority to approve the annual budget and to engage and dismiss the chief executive officer.¹

10. The institution documents outsourcing of all services in written agreements, including agreements with parent or affiliated organizations.

The institution takes responsibility for the ethical and responsible behavior of its contractual partners in relation to actions taken on its behalf.

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