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Accreditation Chronicle, Volume 2, Issue 1

Cedarville University

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Accreditation Chronicle

Volume 2, Issue 1
August 29, 2005

Issue Highlights

- * New Mission Statement
- * Well-deserved Thanks
- * Faculty/Staff Review
- * How you can contribute

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.

Mission Statement Unveiled

Dr. Brown unveiled the newly approved University Mission Statement at the Faculty/Staff meetings on August 10th. The mission statement reflects a comprehensive process involving board members, administration, faculty, staff and students.

The Mission and Integrity Subcommittee, under the leadership of Dr. Robert Parr, began the campus discussion by drafting a proposal and orchestrating several campus discussion groups. After revisions, the proposed statement was submitted to the Administrative Council for consideration and revision. Following this and many informal focus group discussions, the President submitted four versions of the statement to the entire campus. Based on input from the campus and the board, the Administrative Council proposed a statement to the Board of Trustees, which they approved. Continued on **Page 2**.

Expressions of Appreciation

Thanks to all of you who worked so hard on the Unit Reports last Spring and this Summer. They are providing a wealth of information from departments all over campus, which has been compiled in a number of ways to make it useful for our five criterion subcommittees. The committee chairs have already begun preparing for this semester's tasks, and the information from those reports will advance the process of evaluating the university based on the criterion and writing chapter drafts. Continued on **Page 4**.

Cedarville University is a Christ-centered learning community that equips students for lifelong leadership and service through an education marked by excellence and grounded in biblical truth.

Office Staff Highlights:

Dannette Phillips—collected Alumni literature

Judy Awabdy, Amy Bielek and others—collected all Admissions literature

Elaine Keller—the “hub” for all Student Life documents

Vicki Edem & Chrissy Faulkner—scheduling rooms for meetings

Dara Fraley—prepared the “Princess Bride” clips

New Mission cont. (from page 1)

In the end, the mission revision process effectively demonstrated the type of collaborative campus discussion and reflection that NCA looks for in the colleges and universities it accredits. Cedarville constituents took the process seriously and thought deeply about the importance of this statement. The interest and spirited dialogue demonstrated our commitment to the mission. We took the opportunity to think seriously about who we are, what we do, for whom, to what end; ensuring

that the mission statement reflected the answers to those questions with integrity. Finally, the process resulted in a statement that will provide an anchor for all we do.

Thanks to the Administration for inaugurating the discussion and receiving widespread input multiple times. Kudos to the Mission and Integrity Subcommittee for their hard work and dedication to the task.

Thanks to all those who participated in the process.

Who is the Self-Study?

Administrative Assistants and the many office staff are the unsung heroes of the Self-Study process. They type out meeting minutes, file important documents, and do the vital behind-the-scenes work that makes campus offices function effectively. During a project like the Self-Study, they are the “go-to” personnel. The documentation that they so carefully file, must now be coalesced for the Criterion Subcommittees and the Self-Study Resource Room. Office staff personnel all across campus have been responding to our requests for documentation during the late spring and summer. Now additional and follow-up requests are going out. We realize that these requests are demands over and above the normal work requirements, and we appreciate the effort that is being put into this important process. We salute office staff personnel across campus. You are a vital part of the Self-Study.

Administrative Assistants & Office Staff

Faculty/Staff Sessions—were you there?

Dr. Brown and Dr. Milliman graciously devoted much of the Faculty/Staff Session time to matters related to the Self-Study project. The Self-Study Coordinator brought everyone up to speed on the events of the last year and noted the importance of the coming year. During the 2005-2006 academic year, Cedarville University needs to gather documents, complete surveys, draft self-study chapters, review those drafts, and begin to revise them. It is the pivotal year for the project.

How you can benefit the Self-Study this year:

- ⇒ **Continue the assessment process by completing the feedback loop.**
- ⇒ **Promptly respond when asked to fill out surveys or send in documents.**
- ⇒ **Take minutes at any and all campus meetings.**
- ⇒ **Read, review, and respond to newsletters and chapter drafts.**

Remember that accreditation allows Cedarville to provide federal financial aid to students. It allows students to transfer Cedarville credit to other schools, gain admission to graduate school and seminaries, and offer an accredited degree to prospective employers. It is also an opportunity for us to do what we do even better. We can always improve, finding more effective ways be good stewards of our resources, minister to our students, and transform culture with the ultimate goal of glorifying God. In the final analysis, the accreditation process, as taxing as it can be sometimes, helps us do well what we have been called to do.

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

Accreditation Amusement

“If you’ve heard it once, you’ve heard it a thousand times,”...we keep talking about those documents. After all, they are a vital part of the process of writing the report and the Self-Study. Well, now all of you can be a part of the action. Count the number of times the word “documents” appears in this newsletter. Variations of the word, e.g.

“documentation,” do not count. To enter, just send Carla Gaines an email with your answer, and please put “Accreditation Amusement” in the subject line. The drawing will take place 5 work days after the newsletter is sent out.

Prize: \$5 Vecino’s coupons

Thank You

Appreciation cont. (from page 1)

Thanks, as well, to all of you who have begun to submit documentation to Carla Gaines. She sent out requests during the summer, and has sent updated requests recently. Please take careful note of the deadlines provided in those requests. The subcommittees will need the documentation requested in order to effectively consider the criterion and begin writing their chapters. So please send all documents as quickly as possible. We appreciate everyone who will be responding to these requests, in addition to

those who already have. Please contact Carla Gaines or Tom Mach with any questions.

Individual electronic surveys will likely appear some time during the fall as well. We realize that we do many surveys on campus and they do add to a busy schedule, but this one should only take a few minutes. We are trying to be sensitive to these concerns and will not presume upon you more than is necessary. Nonetheless, the Self-Study is a collective project and we need your assistance. Once again, thank you, in advance!

Contests??

Yes, that's right. We have decided to add some fun to our newsletter. How will it work? When you receive the newsletter, look for the "game" in that issue. Then email your answer to Carla Gaines at gainesc@cedarville.edu. All correct entries will be combined into a drawing to see who wins. We hope you have some fun, and gain valuable information at the same time.



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

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www.cedarville.edu/accreditation

- * Self-Study links
- * Assessment links
- * Self-Study timeline
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