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Cedarville University

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Accreditation Chronicle

Volume 2, Issue 2
January 23, 2006

SELF-STUDY One Year and Counting

Issue Highlights

- * One Year and Counting
- * Exceptional Support
- * Beyond the Call of Duty
- * Drafts Coming

With the start of the new year, it seems appropriate to review where we have been and what lies ahead. Cedarville University is scheduled for a Site-Team Visit from a Higher Learning Commission evaluation team in March of 2007. Since the team needs to have the Self-Study and all associated documentation at least two months in advance of the visit, we have just one more year to complete our study. While that seems like a lot of time, we know that it will go very quickly. Thankfully, much progress has been made to date, as a result of your cooperation. Continued on **Page 3**.

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.

Your Exceptional Support

The Self-Study Steering Committee and all the Subcommittees would like to thank the campus community for their participation with the Self-Study to date. The unit reports last Spring have been a vital source of information for the chapter writing process. Various offices across campus have responded to our call for documentation, resulting in over 400 documents entered into our Resource Room. In addition, the campus gave an overwhelming response to the individual survey during the fall. Over 460 administration, faculty and staff responded providing excellent data that you will see presented in the Self-Study. These examples represent well the type of support the campus has shown throughout the entire process. Indeed, we are thankful. Continued on **Page 3**.



Who is the Self-Study?

Criterion Subcommittees

Criterion 1: Mission & Integrity

Robert Parr, Social Sciences & History
Lee Matson, University Bookstore
Roger Overturf, Community Relations
Judy Awabdy, Admissions
Kirsten Gibbs, Student Life
Jan Conway, Nursing
Jim Bjornstad, Biblical Education
Pam Johnson, Health & Human Performance
Galen Smith, Business Administration
Melissa Raber, Student

Criterion 2: Preparing for the Future

Lynn Brock, Library
Jan Bosma, Library
Tim Bosworth, Human Resources
Jeff Brock, Annual Fund
Brian Nester, MIS
Fred Merritt, Financial Aid
Deb MacDonald, University Medical Services
Sam San Gregory, Engineering
Chuck Clevenger, Music & Art
Teresa Clark, Exercise & Sport Science
Jeff Fawcett, Business Administration

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

The heart of the Self-Study is comprised of five chapters which evaluate the University according to five criteria established by the Higher Learning Commission. Cedarville has commissioned five committees to conduct this evaluation based on the criteria. These committees, or subcommittees as we call them, consist of representatives from across campus. Above are the individuals on two of our subcommittees. They have made a significant commitment to the Self-Study process on behalf of the university. For their time, energy, dedication, and yeoman-like work, we tip our hat in appreciation.

One Year and Counting (from page 1)

As we look back, the Self-Study began a year and a half ago with the development of a self-study plan and the Steering Committee. The first semester focused on fleshing out the plan, learning about the Higher Learning Commission's new criteria, and creating criteria subcommittees. The second semester brought the subcommittees into the process. They began gathering information and documentation, and developed the unit report and individual survey. By last summer, we were ready to formulate the first outlines of the Self-Study chapters. This past fall was dedicated almost exclusively to writing the first drafts of the five criteria chapters of the Self-Study. This process demanded many hours of work on the part of

the subcommittee members and chairs. In addition, it required campus input once again as the individual survey was delivered.

With the start of the Spring semester, the Steering Committee and criterion subcommittees will begin work on revising these chapter drafts. This work will continue over the summer, and during the fall the chapters will be updated with current data and finalized for printing. While the self-study will be finished, we will still need to prepare for the site visit itself. The days ahead are important ones for Cedarville University. covet your prayers for wisdom as we continue the process and want to express our ongoing appreciation for the many ways you continue to be involved.

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Your Exceptional Support (from page 1)

The work continues, however, and every step of the process is important. We request that all departments, divisions, advisory groups, and committees continue to forward minutes to Carla Gaines at the end of each semester. As you have given in the past, we appreciate your willing fulfillment of any requests. The Steering Committee realizes that with so much going on across campus right now, it is difficult to find the time. So, we commit to not asking lightly and we will continue to do so with appreciation. Working together, we will successfully complete this vital project.

Accreditation Amusement

The Criterion Subcommittees have had monumental tasks as of late, and they are to be much commended for their outstanding work. Therefore, we'll help you find out who these champions are. So, name your division (or school for the Academic Division), and all subcommittee members who represent your division or school. (Hint: see our website.)

To enter, send Carla Gaines your response via email, remembering to put "Accreditation Amusement" in the subject line. A drawing from correct responses will occur 5 work days after the newsletter is distributed.

Prize: 21 oz. bag of M&Ms

Self-Study Drafts Being Reviewed

In the Fall,
the chapters
will be made
available to
the entire
campus for
review.

This Spring Semester is dedicated to the first-round revisions of the criterion chapter drafts. After the Steering Committee has made some revisions, each chapter draft will be sent to three different groups for review. Those groups include the Administrative Council, the Deans Council, and the Student Academic Advisory Board. Each group will send their suggested revisions to the Steering Committee for review and implementation. Changes to the chapters made as a result of those suggestions will take place during the Spring semester and continue on through the summer.

In the Fall, the chapters will go through further revision. Updates will be made to the chapters based on new data from the 2005-2006 academic year. In addition, the chapters will be made available to the entire campus for review. Administration, faculty, staff and students will be asked to submit suggestions via email or during scheduled campus meetings. Significant campus input has already been received via the Unit Reports, the Individual Surveys, the Assessment process, and other surveys that we regularly complete. In addition, the campus is welcome to provide input at any time to members of the Steering Committee or the Self-Study Coordinator. The processes planned for Fall 2006 will represent the final phase of revision prior to the completion of the Self-Study. Please plan to participate in this important process.



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

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Look! We're on the web!

www.cedarville.edu/accreditation

- * Self-Study links
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