

SPECIAL FACULTY MEETING

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

4 PM

Ware Center Theater

Ivory V. Nelson, Ph.D., President, Presiding

Informational Meeting about the upcoming small team visit by Middle States Association on Thursday December 1, 2011

Middle States team will be composed of two persons: Dr. Howard Ishiyama and Dr. Mary Ellen Petrisko. They will arrive Wednesday night November 30, 2011 at 7 PM. A tentative agenda of the visit was distributed. It involves meetings with the President, the Deans, Department Chairs, the Monitoring Report Team, and the Faculty Committee on Assessment. An exit report will be delivered at 2:10 PM on 12/1/2011 in the Board Room in International Cultural Center.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to make sure everyone had the same message. That the faculty has finally gotten it with Standard 14 Assessment of Student Learning. We have come a long way and we still have much hard work ahead.

Dr. Nelson reviewed his chart on Student Learning Assessment (the target) emphasizing that student learning is the ultimate outcome.

A yellow handout was distributed giving the three overall university priorities and the four overarching themes.

The University priorities are:

- To produce graduates academically capable of entering a top 50 graduate or professional school.
- To produce graduates professionally capable of being fast-tracked in their workplace.
- To be ranked in the top 10 of HBCUs academically, athletically and artistically.

The Overarching Themes are:

- To embrace an academic culture that improves the University's reputation measured by teaching, research, and service, and to embrace an ethic that fosters Graduate School-Ready standards for all Lincoln students.
- To structure and sustain an environment that provides each student with the best opportunity for their academic, cultural, social, physical, mental, and spiritual success.
- To provide a mechanism to financially support the University's strategic initiative and ensure the delivery of the University's operational and support services measured by both professional efficiency and customer service.
- To manage the University's fiscal resources at a high level of fiscal accountability consistent with the newer and more stringent federal and state requirements.

The president stressed how important it is that we must sustain over a period of time a program of assessing student learning outcome (SLOs) in our courses, programs (majors), and with our core curriculum which reflects our University's values.

Dr. Anna Hull, chair of Monitoring Report Committee and Prof. William Donohue, Assessment Committee Chair pointed out that we need to consider the small team visit like we have achieve our goals and that we will continue to improve and sustain a program of student learning assessment with active faculty participation. They distributed an exercise sheet titled: LU and Middle States "Celebrating Assessment.

Middle States asked to address the following big three concerns in our monitoring report:

- Evidence of appropriate and assessable student learning goals at the program and course levels.
- Evidence of direct measures of assessment of student learning at the program and course levels.
- Evidence that student learning assessment data are analyzed and used to improve teaching and learning – "Closing the loop.

Dr. Renford Brevett, Director of Institutional Research distributed a handout: Exhibit 4: Descriptive explanation of noncompliance noted in Table 2 from the monitoring report. This particular handout addresses those areas where we are still not completely in compliance with Standard 14 which we planned to address in the 2011-2012 academic year.

Both Dr. Hull and Prof. Donohue pointed that we came a long way the past nine months with assessment of student learning from where we were and we should be proud of ourselves for all the hard work we have done so far.

As a result of the activity associated with assessment of student learning and the monitoring report we discovered that we need to improve the core curriculum and the current eight integrated themes.

A report was distributed from the Ad Hoc Core Curriculum Committee that will lead to a revision of the Core SLOs as a product of the assessment process. The report from the Committee lists six core student learning outcomes and the eight integrated themes which should be renamed either "Core Student Learning Outcomes" or "Core Competencies." The faculty will have a more extensive discussion of this report at the regular faculty meeting on December 6, 2011.

There was extensive faculty discussion on how we the faculty can maintain the momentum of the work we have done so far on the assessment of student learning in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert Bryson
Catalog Librarian
Faculty Secretary