



The Centrality of an Institutional Mission in HLC Reaccreditation

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Session Objectives

- Demonstrate the centrality of mission statements in institutional self study
- Understand the importance for institutional clarity in understanding and appreciation of the institutional mission

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Introduction

- Consultant Evaluator for 15 years
- Perform 2-3 reaccreditation visits a year
- Serve as team chair on self study visits
- Trained to review online programs
- Served as the self study chair for UIS' 2007 reaccreditation

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Introduction

- Sangamon State University was founded in 1969 as an upper-division institution
- Teaching and Public Affairs were the cornerstones
- In 1995, joined the University of Illinois as one campus of a three-campus system
 - 1998 launched the first doctoral program
 - 1999 began an aggressive online initiative
 - 2001 initiated a 4-year honors curriculum
 - 2006 expanded 4-year curriculum

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Introduction

- Focused planning initiatives – 1990s and early 2000s
- Comprehensive strategic planning – 2004
- The campus was energized by a new mission statement that:
 - Represented traditional components of the institution
 - Portrayed UIS’ evolving vision and culture
 - Truly represented the “heart” of the institution
 - The new mission statement was used to frame our self study and write the reaccreditation report

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HLC Criterion

- Mission and Integrity
- Preparing for the Future
- Student Learning and Effective Teaching
- Acquisition, Discovery and Application of Knowledge
- Engagement and Service

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Centrality of Mission

- Self study is about demonstrating how you are “living your mission”
- Despite which criterion you are addressing, mission is always at center stage
- It is more than having documents and stating your mission – it is demonstrating the integrity of your mission in what you do

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Centrality of Mission

- How does the mission define, guide and shape :
 - Student Learning
 - Institutional and educational priorities
 - Resources
 - Commitments to constituents
 - Diversity

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Mission and Future Planning

- What is the institutional capacity to achieve it's mission in the future?
- Is the institution posed to meet the demands of the future and the impact of these demands on it's mission?

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Mission and Teaching/Learning

- Are learning outcomes for the institution aligned with the mission?
- Are results of teaching and learning evidence that the institution is meeting it's mission?

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Mission and Acquisition of Knowledge

- Does the mission permeate the ways the institution promotes a life of learning?
- Is the curriculum aligned with the institutional mission?

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Mission and Engagement

- Does the institution integrate all of its constituencies in assessing whether it meets its mission?
- Does the institutional mission reflect a responsiveness to the external world?

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Conclusion

Understanding your Institutional Mission

Conceptual Webbing Exercise:

1. Engage in New Worlds of Thought
2. Embrace Responsible Citizenship
3. Educated for a Future that can only be imagined

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