Info on BSU’s Continuing Accreditation Process
This is the second of five newsletters, each highlighting one of the criteria.

Digging Deeper into the Self-Study
As part of the self-study process, the university identified four significant institutional changes to highlight in the self-study document. Those changes, described in feature stories beginning on page 8 of the self-study, are:

- Center For Extended Learning (CEL)
- College Reorganization
- Liberal Education
- Student Development & Enrollment

**HOT TOPIC!!**
A Master Data Site Deep Dive
Planning. For a good overview of BSU’s planning structure, check out the concept map. You’ll find the map at:
http://www.bemidjistate.edu/hlc/process/master_data/planning.cfm

Process Recaps
Self-Study Process Started in 2008. Over fifty students, staff, administrators and faculty have contributed time, effort and intellect to the self-study process since it began in spring 2008.

Self-Study Document Completed. The self-study document was completed and sent to HLC and the consultant evaluators on January 25, 2010.

Site Visit Set for March 22-24. The campus community will have at least one opportunity, if not more, to meet with consultant evaluators, during their March 22-24 visit. A schedule for the team visit will be released to the campus soon.

Criterion I Components Met. BSU clearly and consistently states, articulates and lives its mission and vision.
General Findings

Bemidji State University uses integrated planning to guide decision making, assess outcomes, determine actions, allocate resources and prepare for the future. Guided by its mission, the university continually reviews and adjusts its planning processes to assure its educational quality, its capacity to fulfill its mission and its ability to respond to anticipated and unanticipated challenges and opportunities.

Core Component 2a.
The organization realistically plans for a future shaped by multiple societal and economic trends.

The university’s planning process has changed extensively since the last HLC visit 10 years ago. At the time, the University was using an experimental planning process, which ultimately proved unworkable. Having evolved, the current planning process is now incorporated into the work of several committees and councils, including the Deans’ Council, the Future’s Council, the Gaps and Trends Committee, the Cabinet, and the Leadership Council. In addition, a series of ad hoc groups have been formed, as needed, to address other planning contingencies.

Core Component 2b.
The organization’s resource base supports its educational programs and its plans for maintaining and strengthening that quality in the future.

The University’s plans are used to determine resource allocations. Recent examples include the development of a new four-year nursing degree, the recently completed Sattgast science building addition and remodel, and a number of projects (using federal stimulus funds) designed to make buildings more energy-efficient, thereby lowering fixed costs for heating and cooling.

Core Component 2c.
The organization’s ongoing evaluation and assessment processes provide reliable evidence of institutional effectiveness that clearly informs strategies for continuous improvement.

Assessment of student learning outcomes is a critical element of measuring program effectiveness across campus. Assessment and evaluation systems are in place at all three levels of university planning. The university closes the loop on assessment planning, implementation and evaluation by aligning resources with results in support of the institutional mission.

Core Component 2d.
All levels of planning align with the organization’s mission, thereby enhancing its capacity to fulfill that mission.

The university has moved from one-year budget plans that addressed short-term solutions to forward-thinking, longer-term planning. With increasing effectiveness, Bemidji State University uses multiple layers of planning to guide its actions and the expenditure of its resources. These layers include mission-related documents and established and ad hoc planning committees, councils, task forces and work groups. The University Strategic Plans were developed cooperatively with the university community. Planning is aligned with resources and is conducted in the light of current societal and economic trends as identified in planning documents.

More Criterion 2 Particulars

Levels of university planning: Self-Study p 35.

Interconnections of the campus plans: HLC criteria crosswalk document on the master data site.

The current university planning process: Self-Study p. 44
Summary of Evidence: Self-Study p 53- 55

Further Criterion 2 information can be found at: http://www.bemidjistate.edu/hlc