Re-Accreditation: Should Students Care?

The Higher Learning Commission and BSU’s Self-Study

October 9, 2008
Institutional Accreditation

- Accredited through the Higher Learning Commission (North Central Association)
- Last accreditation visit in 1999-2000
- Next accreditation visit March, 2010
Importance of Accreditation

- Demonstrates highest standard of quality
- Benchmark on accountability
- Assessment of how we are doing
- Keeping our promise
Comprehensive Self-Study

- Opportunity to tell our story (who we are, what we have accomplished, what we aspire to be)
- Conducted with highest integrity
  - Honestly – evaluation of strengths and challenges
  - Accurately – patterns of evidence, data, etc.
  - With conviction – passion for what we do
- No guarantees
Committee Structure

HLC Steering Committee: Oversight of Self-Study

- **Criterion One**: Mission and Integrity
- **Criterion Two**: Preparing for the Future
- **Criterion Three**: Student Learning and Effective Teaching
- **Criterion Four**: Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge
- **Criterion Five**: Engagement and Service
Other Work Group/Teams

- Numerous other work groups/teams will be assembled
  - Data Collection Team
  - Publicity & Communication Team
  - Site Visit Team
- HLC Re-Accreditation web site
Our Timeline

- **Spring 2008**
  - Implementation of self-study process

- **Summer & Fall 2008**
  - Data collection & analysis begins, outlines prepared, committee interviews

- **Spring 2009**
  - Final data analysis & preparation, first draft of report to campus community

- **Summer & Fall 2009**
  - Revisions of draft and final organization of data
  - Preparation for visit finalized

- **Spring 2010**
  - Site visit from HLC Peer Reviewers-March
Table Talk Exercise

- Mission—An organization’s central purpose, reason to exist. Why was the organization created and why does it continue to exist? What do we do and to what end?

- What is the mission of Bemidji State University?
Round 2

- Should students care about and understand the university’s mission? Why or why not?
Round 3

- As northern Minnesota’s university, we engage in new worlds of thought, embrace responsible citizenship, and educate for a future that can only be imagined.
- Does this mission statement resonate with or seem to express many of the aspects you discussed that seemed central to the university’s mission? Explain fully.
Round 4

- Brainstorm—How can we engage students in a discussion of the university’s mission and create awareness of the new statement? Focus particularly on students who live in the residence halls.
Thank you for your time and ideas!!