

Santa Clara University

WASC Update
Administrative Leaders Group
April 29, 2008

WASC and SCU

- Western Association of Schools and Colleges
- WASC reports to Department of Education
- One of seven Regional Accrediting Agencies
- Ten year Accreditation cycle
- Last report and visit 1999
- Next reports and visit 2009 and 2011
- WASC policies intended both as self study framework and best practices for institutions

SCU's WASC Timeline

- May 2007, Institutional proposal submitted; Approved July 07
- Fall 2007 - Winter 2008 Self study initiated for CPR and EER
 - see www.scu.edu/wasc for reports/data, resources, etc.
- Spring 2008 First draft CPR report in process
- Fall 2008 All Hands retreat
- Fall 2008-Spring 2009 revise draft; distribute to University
- June 2009 complete CPR report
- Summer 2009 submit CPR report and accompanying material to WASC
- Fall 2009 Host CPR visit
- Winter 2010 - 2011 Complete EER report
- Spring 2011 Host EER visit

WASC vision and structure

- WASC's Two Phases (two commitments)
 - Capacity and Preparatory Review (CPR)
 - Educational Effectiveness Review (EER)
- WASC's Four Standards
 - Institutional Purpose: Mission, Integrity, Objectives
 - Educational Objectives: Teaching, Learning, Scholarship
 - Resources and Structures: Faculty/Staff, Fiscal, Physical, Processes
 - Organizational Learning: Strategic Thinking, Commitment to Improvement
- WASC's forty two Criteria for Review (CFRs)
 - Standards/CFRs under revision

Integrating our self study into WASC's CFRs

- SCU's Three Themes
 - Educating for Competence, Conscience, Compassion
 - Supporting the Teaching Scholar Model
 - Promoting a Community of Inclusive Excellence
- Other issues we'll address in CPR
 - Issues flagged in Fall 06 survey
 - Assessment
 - Advising
 - All issues noted in 2000 Action Letter
 - Assessment, Program Review, Diversity, Library, Grad Program

Integrating our self study into WASC's CFRs

- Educating for CCC: all WASC Standards
 - Reports, data gathered from Schools, Centers, Programs
 - Surveys: NSSE, CIRP, Critical Thinking, Compassion
- Promoting the TSM: esp. Standards 2 and 3
 - Reports, data gathered, posted
 - Surveys: HERI, Sloane
- Promoting a Community of IE: Standards 1, 2, 3
 - Reports, data gathered, posted
 - Focus groups, interviews, survey

Beyond our Themes

- Advising: Small task force (Standard 2)
 - Report will summarize SCU's practices
 - NSSE and CSS data
 - Anticipated changes with new Core
 - Recommendations for further study and best practices

Beyond our Themes (cont.)

- Assessment report (Standards 2 and 4)
 - Departmental annual assessment
 - Program Review Cycle
 - Director of Assessment role, Infrastructure
 - Multi-year assessment cycle for Core

Assessment of the Core

- Multi-year assessment plan (Tentative)
 - 6 year cycle
 - Initiate assessment plan with 08-09 pilot courses
 - Identify relevant courses (Foundations in 09)
 - Gather randomly selected student work from courses
 - Individual faculty not evaluated in Core assessment
 - Faculty teams assess student work, provide brief report on student learning
 - Relevant departments close feedback loop by considering whether changes are needed to improve student learning

SCU's CPR Report: Planned Structure

- Introduction
 - SCU Overview: Four Standards
- Reflective essays Themes/CFRs
 - Program Review & Assessment
 - Educating for CCC
 - Supporting TSM
 - Promoting Inc Ex
 - Advising
- Concluding essay
- Portfolio of exhibits
 - Basic descriptive data
 - Stipulated Policies
 - Exhibits and data displays, chosen by SCU
- Appendix
 - Response to previous Action Letter
 - Response to previous team recommendations

New WASC Developments

- Revision of Standards and Criteria for Review
- Increased emphasis on accountability and transparency
 - Public access to retention, graduation rates, student achievement
 - Assessment of student learning
 - Promotion of student success
 - Disaggregation of data by race/ethnicity, gender, program level, degree
- More changes forthcoming Moving Culture of Evidence and Educational Effectiveness to “next level”

WASC revisions of Standards 1 & 2

- Assess learning at course, program, & institution level
- Make student achievement data public
- Cultivate intellectual engagement at graduate level
- Address learning, retention & completion in program review
- Include scholarship of teaching in R & T, if appropriate
- Disaggregate and use data on student success: ethnic, gender, etc.

WASC revisions of Standards 3 & 4

- Engage ALL faculty in assessment, development
- Provide orientation to faculty
- Train faculty in technology
- Maintain financial sustainability
- Support board development and training
- CEO & CFO full time
- Faculty governance; clearly defined roles & responsibilities
- Use comparative external data in quality assurance

Recent WASC Highlights for SCU

- 15 SCU faculty attended WASC Annual Conference in April
- Six SCU faculty presented at WASC conference
 - Jonte-Pace, Brown, Gittens, Crowley: Mission-Centered Core Revision
 - Gittens, Jonte-Pace: SCU's Transformation of WASC's Rubrics
 - Pappas and Carroll: Linking Courses through Course Software
 - Shapiro: Educating for Ethics
- SCU's Institutional Proposal is used by WASC as model for other Universities

Contact us

- Diane Jonte-Pace
- Office of Undergraduate Studies
- www.scu.edu/wasc
- 408 551 7032