

To: Members of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees
 Steve Nelson, Chairperson Bill Griffin
 Bill Epperly Mike Houston
 Carolyn Ehlert Fuller D'Angelo Taylor

From: Joe Rives, Vice President, Quad Cities, Planning and Technology

Date: February 22, 2010

Re: February 2010 Strategic Plan Update

On February 26th and March 5th in Macomb and March 3rd in the Quad Cities, the University's Steering Team for institutional re-accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of Colleges and Schools will hold focus groups on Western's draft *Self-Study*. All members of the campus community are invited to attend one or more of the sessions below to ensure there is continued campus voice in the writing and editing of the University's *Self-Study*.

Date/Time	Topic/Location
February 26 (Macomb)	All Focus Groups at WIU-M (University Services Building)
8:30 – 9:20	Introductory Chapter of the Self-Study
10:00 – 10:50	Criterion 1: Mission
1:00 - 1:50	Criterion 2: Planning
2:30 – 3:20	Criterion 3: Instruction and Assessment
3:45 – 4:35	Criterion 4: Research and Creative Activities
March 3 (Quad Cities)	All Focus Groups in Room 102 A and B
9:30 – 10:20	Criteria 1 and 2: Mission and Planning
10:30 – 11:20	Criteria 3, 4, and 5: Instruction and Assessment, Research and Creative Activities, and Public Service and Outreach
1:30 – 2:20	Special Emphasis 1: Strengthening Distance Learning
2:30 – 3:20	Special Emphasis 2: Growing Our Two Campuses
3:30 – 4:20	Introductory Chapter of the Self-Study and Special Emphasis 3: Measuring and Demonstrating Our Values
March 5 (Macomb)	All Focus Groups at WIU-M (University Services Building)
8:30 – 9:20	Criterion 5: Public Service and Outreach
10:00 – 10:50	Special Emphasis 1: Strengthening Distance Learning
1:00 – 1:50	Special Emphasis 2: Growing Our Two Campuses
2:30 – 3:20	Special Emphasis 3: Measuring and Demonstrating Our Values

In preparing for the focus groups, individuals are encouraged to go the University's NCA Accreditation Website www.wiu.edu/accreditation and click on Teams. On the left hand side you will see Introductory Chapter through Special Emphasis #3. Each individual team report is posted under their team. As soon as the draft of special emphasis #3 is completed, a "Cover to Cover" draft Study will be posted on the homepage for the Accreditation Website.

There are a couple of items to note on the focus groups process. In Macomb, over 200 members of the campus community were randomly selected and invited to participate to encourage a wide range of viewpoints. If a member of the campus community was not randomly selected, we still welcome participation at one or more of these focus groups. The Quad Cities did not use random sampling given the smaller population. Topics of the Quad Cities were also combined only to promote efficiency in the focus group day. If, however, there is need for continued focus group discussion in the Quad Cities and/or Macomb, additional sessions will be scheduled.

Following other university planning initiatives, other means for soliciting campus feedback include mention in monthly strategic plan updates, process updates and discussions with campus governance groups, and sending draft reports to all faculty and staff on the Macomb and Quad Cities Campuses for review and feedback.

The first draft of the University's *Self-Study* is also on your March 26, 2010, Western Illinois University Board of Trustees meeting agenda. The Co-Chairs of the University's self-study process (Dr. Marcia Carter, Associate Professor, Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration; Dr. Judith Dallinger, Associate Provost; Dr. Chris Sutton, Professor, Geography; and myself) look forward to receiving edits and recommendations to the *Self-Study*. We will work with the writing teams to ensure that all feedback is incorporated into the final draft of the *Self-Study*.

We also wish to thank you and the campus community for your continuing engagement in the self-study process. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the information presented in this *Strategic Plan Update* and/or the continued successful implementation of *Higher Values in Higher Education*.

cc:	President Goldfarb	COAP President Meixner	Associate Provost Dallinger
	Provost Thomas	Faculty Council Chair Rowson	Associate Provost Hawkinson
	Vice President Johnson	Faculty Senate Chair Devolder	Assistant Vice President Williams
	Vice President Thompson	Macomb SGA Chair Heard	Planning, Budget, and IR Staff
	CSEC President Lavin	Quad Cities SGA Chair Garrison	President's Office Support Staff