



Steering Committee Highlights



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Highlights of the December 9, 2013, Steering Committee meeting

Roberta Eisel, English Professor and Accreditation Co-Chair, led the Steering Committee through the literature review of "Accountability and Institutional Effectiveness in the Community College" by Peter Ewell. The article gave a history of developments related to institutional effectiveness, accountability, assessment, and comparison data within the community college sector. In addition to identifying the state and Federal governments, the accreditation commission, elected regional boards, and employers as external entities vested in accountability, Ms. Eisel discussed the challenges community colleges face in addressing institutional effectiveness as well as some emerging remedies.

In the pursuit of institutional effectiveness, community colleges, each with unique characteristics such as varying missions; distinctive and diverse attendance patterns; and a broad range of student characteristics, differ from other higher education institutions, and each other.

Emerging remedies include the use and modification of long-standing practices, fresh thinking, and technical advances. Institutional benchmarking, the comparing of colleges on a range of input and output indicators, is another of the remedies showing some promise. Ewell claims, "Community colleges should embrace these measures [emerging effectiveness and accountability measures], adapt them to their own circumstances to meet legitimate calls for accountability, and use the resulting information to get even better."

Ms. Eisel, who also serves as Accreditation Co-chair, reviewed the supplemental report submitted to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges along with an annual fiscal report last spring. Beyond enrollment patterns and institutional information, the new report required responses to questions pertaining to institution-set standards in student achievement areas. The standards were developed by a work group that consisted of representation from faculty and managers and was regularly reported on at Steering.

Ms. Eisel and Dr. Lan Hao explained the data reported in categories such as: the rate of course completion; persistence rate; degree completion; transfer to 4-year colleges/universities; and certificate completion.

The committee also reviewed changes presented for Administrative Procedure 4227 - Repeatable Courses.

The minutes of Steering Committee meetings may be viewed at: <http://www.citruscollege.edu/admin/president/steering/Pages/default.aspx>