

Quality Checkup Report: Points to Ponder
May 2008

To begin, we need to all remember the key fundamental principal for the AQIP approach to accreditation is continuous improvement. While our Quality Checkup experience and the subsequent report was quite positive, we must not cease in our efforts; most notably, this is a reminder of the Action Projects (http://www.iun.edu/~aqip/action_projects/):

General Education Reform

Centralizing Student Learning Outcome Assessment

Increasing our Capacity for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness

Creating a Culture of Continuous Improvement

In order to navigate our Reaffirmation of Accreditation successfully, we need to follow through on the plans outlined for each of these Action Projects.

Part of the material that the Review Panel will receive during the Reaffirmation of Accreditation process, the Quality Checkup Report notes the following:

- General Education Revision (1 of 2 accreditation issues): “IU Northwest is moving toward full compliance in this area,” (3) and “this is no longer an accreditation issue given the amount of work IU Northwest has committed to general education redeployment” (4). TO DO: COMPLETE AND IMPLEMENT GENERAL EDUCATION REVISION
- Succession Planning (1 of 2 accreditation issues): efforts “should be monitored as a ‘strategic issue’” (5). This moved from an accreditation to a strategic issue. TO DO: A) SUCCESSFULLY PLAN FOR CHANCELLOR SUCCESSION (the job description/ad as related to the current needs and desired directions of the campus), B) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THE “LEADERSHIP ACADEMY.” AND C) COMPLETE THE HUMAN CAPITAL PLAN.
- Stakeholder Analysis: The reviewers noted the work on human capital and enrollment as examples of our desire to understand our stakeholders. However, they stated, “Further work needs to be done, but the campus is making an earnest effort in this area” (6). TO DO: A) FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE HUMAN CAPITAL PLAN AND ENROLLMENT REPORT AND B) ASSESS WHAT FURTHER WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE HERE
- Assessment of student learning outcomes: “...assessment is not seen as an improvement strategy as much as a mechanism forced from the outside” (6). TO DO: A) IMPLEMENT STAGES OF RELATED ACTION PROJECT AND B) ADD FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF ON ASSESSMENT AS AN IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY

- Strategic Alignment: “IU Northwest has had limited progress toward accomplishing any meaningful outcome related to this issue” (6). TO DO : ALIGNMENT OF STRATEGIC AND UNIT GOALS
- Process Documentation: The reviewers noted the process mapping that has occurred related to the hiring process and recommended that we process map other key processes (7). TO DO: PROCESS MAP KEY PROCESSES
- Results: “IU Northwest is at the beginning stages of using data to drive decisions” (8). TO DO: IMPLEMENT THE KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES
- Continuous Improvement: “The deep culture of continuous improvement as THE organizing principle for the institution is not apparent” (8). TO DO: CONTINUE EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A CULTURE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND TO INTEGRATE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT INTO STRATEGIC PLANNING.