

RUSS

Rowan University Self Study Update

Volume 1, Issue 3

Background

The RUSS Team and its various working groups have been busy this spring and summer preparing questions and compiling data to answer those questions for our self-study. The draft of the self-study plan was approved by Middle States on April 17. Plans call for RUSS working groups to contact members of our campus community during the fall semester to gather information on our processes and systems. As noted in previous newsletters, there are 14 standards that must be met for Middle States accreditation. Starting with this newsletter issue, we begin to highlight each of those standards, profile the leaders of working groups, and chronicle the group's progress to date. In the interests of clarity, we will also reprint the questions that each group devised to help us study ourselves and improve what we do to serve our students and our community.

Spotlight on Standard 1

Standard 1 focuses on the institution's Mission and Goals. The working group in this area will be investigating the alignment between our mission and our goals as well as how we go about formulating and communicating our mission both internally and externally. Perhaps the most philosophical of the standards, Standard 1 requires us as a University community to examine what makes us different from other institutions, what differentiates a Rowan graduate from all others, and what tools and techniques we employ to insure that we keep our promises to internal and external constituencies.

Profiles of the Standard 1 working group leaders

Spearheading this effort are Pat Mosto and Don Stoll. With combined Rowan experience of 45 years, both feel up to the task facing them. Although both are also serving as co-chairs of the RUSS Team, they agreed to head up the Standard 1 working group.

Pat joined the Rowan Biological Science Department as a faculty member 14 years ago. She has been active in the University Senate and a department chairperson. She was recently appointed to serve as the Associate Dean of Liberal Arts & Sciences after having served as the Interim Associate Provost in Academic Affairs for the past three years. She brings valuable experience to the Team and her working group having served as a Middle States evaluator three times. She looks forward to "learning and clarifying our institution's goals and current practices to achieve being the best that we can be." Outside of her Rowan work, Pat writes poetry and just published her first book of poetry. She served as a scout leader for 12 years, admits to being an avid movie fan, and loves to travel to remote and exotic places.

Don is an Associate Professor in the Writing Arts Department with 31 years of Rowan experience. His course specialties include the first-year writing sequence and workplace writing. His skill set includes assessment experience (as a Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee chair and Assessment Consulting Team member) and his background as a writer and communicator.

Profiles continued...

Don is excited about his involvement in the reaccreditation effort. “We hope to make it a vital and meaningful experience for the University and for those who are participating in the self study. We also will make an effort to keep our processes as open and transparent to the Rowan community as possible.” A college professor for over 40 years, Don loves to travel and reveals that part of him is a frustrated first grade teacher.

Standard 1 working group progress report

This group has met four times this spring and summer. Topics discussed have included data collection, campus values, and Rowan’s strengths and weaknesses. The group is working on a survey to be distributed to the entire campus community this fall. The questions this group has posed to address Standard 1 include:

- 1) How are Rowan University’s Mission and Goals developed, and what processes are in place to keep them updated and current? Are these processes effective? How does the campus community as a whole participate in the creation and development of Rowan University’s Mission and Goals and how are Rowan University’s Mission and Goals presented to the community?
- 2) How does the Rowan University Mission shape the University’s Goals? How are the Mission and Goals of each of the University’s Divisions connected with the University’s Mission and Goals?
- 3) Does the process through which Rowan University Mission and Goals are derived lead to such generic statements that have little day-to-day or year-to-year value to the University? If they were less generic, could the Mission and Goals have a greater impact on the University?
- 4) What is the process by which we assess the functionality of the Rowan University Mission and Goals? How does the effectiveness of this process lead to improve/change/modify the Mission and Goals?
- 5) How do we sustain our Mission and the Goals in a rapidly changing environment, while responding to externalities?
- 6) Do our current Mission and Goals have value for the Rowan University community? How does the Rowan University community understand the Mission and Goals, and what do they mean to the community?

Standard 1 working group

Dan Chard (Professor, Art)

Don Farish (University President)

Laura James (Student)

Julie Mallory-Church (Assistant Director, Counseling & Psychological Center)

Thomas Morgan (Vice President, Board of Trustees)

Jim Newell (Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs)

Kathleen Pereles (Coordinator of the Honors Program)

Susan Powell (Member, Board of Trustees)

Pat Mosto and Don Stoll—Working Group Leaders

For current information on all RUSS Team activities, please visit our webpage at:

www.rowan.edu/president/selfstudy/index.html under Resources/Campus Documents/Current Updates and Reports (login required). We value your interest, contributions, and questions. Contact Pat Mosto (mosto@rowan.edu) or Don Stoll (stoll@rowan.edu) if you have questions or wish to contribute to the RUSS efforts.