

RUSS

Rowan University Self Study Update

Volume 1, Issue 11

Last chance to comment!

*The RUSS Team is sponsoring one last campus Open Forum to hear feedback on the self study. Please mark your calendar for **Thursday, March 26 at 11 a.m.** We will be meeting in Room 126 Campbell Library. The document can be viewed at: <http://www.rowan.edu/president/selfstudy/index.html>*

Your participation is welcomed and appreciated.

Spotlight on Standards 11, 12, and 13

Broadly speaking, Standards 11, 12, and 13 examine Rowan's educational offerings. Standard 11 is concerned with the academic program's content and its congruence with the University's specific mission as well as the degree of information literacy and technological competency present in the curricula. Standard 12 calls for the institution to examine its General Education curricula, while Standard 13 requires an analysis of the standards of academic "programs or activities that are characterized by particular content, focus, location, mode of delivery, or sponsorship" (quote taken from *Characteristics of Excellence in Higher Education* published by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education).

Profile of Standards 11, 12, and 13 working group leaders

Lorin Basden Arnold, College of Communication Interim Dean, and Karlton Hughes, Instructional Designer in Instructional Technology Services, spearheaded the effort to examine Rowan's educational offerings.

Lorin, a faculty member and then chair for the Communication Studies Department, was recently appointed to serve as Interim Dean in the College of Communication. Since coming to Rowan 11 years ago, she has been interested in curricular issues having served as member and chair of the college curriculum committee as well as serving on the university curriculum committee. She has also been involved in designing and implementing the assessment for public speaking in the communication bank of the General Education program. The mother of six children, Lorin is a vegan and an avid yoga practitioner who researches family communication phenomena.

Karlton Hughes, who assists faculty with the use of multi-media technology both inside and outside of the classroom, has been a member of the professional staff for 13 years. Since completing his M.A. in Instructional Technology, Karlton has maintained a strong interest in the learning process and learning outcomes. He wanted to become involved with analyzing Rowan's educational offerings because he is researching, developing, and implementing both learning and instructional technologies. "I wanted to contribute my creative problem-solving skills to the RUSS Team," said Karlton. As a hobby, he is currently developing a community website that will help people learn important but seldom-known life skills and includes information on personal budgeting and understanding citizenship.

Standard 11, 12, and 13 working group progress report

This group used multiple methods to collect information for Standards 11, 12, and 13 including meetings with stakeholders who gave insight into the curricular process, student learning outcomes, assessment, and general education and review of documents including catalogs, student handbooks, university websites, procedures of CPCE and Rowan's branch in Camden, as well as curriculum proposals and standards. This working group also surveyed department chairs.

The questions this working group set out to answer are as follows:

- 1) What is the process by which academic programs are designed, approved, evaluated and sustained? How do these processes function in the culture of change?
- 2) How are student learning outcomes identified, communicated, and assessed and revised as a result of assessment?
- 3) How are the skills that cross disciplinary lines, such as communication skills, computer literacy, information literacy, and critical thinking, integrated into the student experience? What role does general education play in this integration? How is the effectiveness of interdisciplinary skills instruction assessed, what has been the results of those assessments, and how are assessment results developed into revisions?
- 4) What is the process by which we measure how our academic programs align with our mission and goals? How is the process being assessed?
- 5) How do we assure that a Rowan graduate (native or transfer) meets the learning expectation goals? What have been the results of analysis of student acquisition of long-term learning goals and how have those results been utilized?
- 6) What is the process by which students are informed of the academic offerings, standards, and requirements? How do we know if these processes are functioning effectively? How has evaluation of these processes impacted revision?
- 7) Are all learning standards consistent across all delivery methods and auxiliary learning locations (including the Glassboro campus, the Camden campus, and via the College of Professional and Continuing Education)? How is this assessed?
- 8) How is the new Distance Learning initiative being assessed and how will this assessment develop into revisions?

Standards 11, 12, and 13 working group

Erin Herberg (Assistant Professor, Writing Arts)

Jay Kuder (Professor, Special Education)

Christine Larsen-Britt (Student)

Phil Lewis (Associate Professor, Marketing)

Jackie McCafferty (Director of ESL, Camden Campus)

Julie Peterson (Special Assistant to the VP for Student Affairs)

Greg Potter (Associate Dean, Library)

Horacio Sosa (Dean, College of Professional and Continuing Education)

Maria Tahamont (Professor, Biological Sciences)

Joy Xin (Professor, Special Education)

Lorin Basden Arnold and Karlton Hughes—Working Group Leaders

Get ready to welcome the Middle States Evaluation Team-----March 29 to April 1, 2009

Team member	General Expertise
President Steven Poskanzer Chair, Middle States Evaluation Team SUNY/New Paltz	Overall Mission Academic Affairs Board relations External affairs
Dr. Kenneth Bonfiglio SUNY/Geneseo	Student Affairs Facilities General Administration
Dr. Marianne Kerlavage Millersville University	Academic Affairs Faculty needs/issues
Dr. Sean McKittrick SUNY/Binghamton	Academic Affairs Assessment
Mr. G. Lonnie McNew Towson University	Admissions Financial Aid
Mr. Greig Mitchell Salisbury University	Finances General Administration Facilities
Mr. Javier Miyares University of Maryland	Planning Assessment
Dr. A. Jacqueline Swansinger SUNY/Fredonia	Academic Affairs Faculty needs/issues
Dr. George Timmons Excelsior College	Distance Learning Technology Planning
Ms. Iris Li Duffield NJ Commission on Higher Education	Academic Affairs

The Middle States Evaluation Team will be visiting Rowan University from March 29 to April 1, 2009. They will be located in Campbell Library Rooms 126, 226, and surrounding rooms and will be interviewing the President, Cabinet, AFT Representatives, Senate Representatives, Assessment Consulting Team members, and the Rowan University Self-Study Team.

For current information on all RUSS Team activities and newsletters, please visit our webpage at:
<http://www.rowan.edu/president/selfstudy/index.html>

RUSS Update Editor/RUSS Team Communications Liaison.....Pat Alexy Stoll