Michigan State University

A Strategy for Research Universities: Combining a Special Emphasis with the New Criteria

Karen Klomparens
Gregory Nicholson

The Higher Learning Commission Annual Meeting
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Goals

Participants at this session will learn how MSU:

• Communicated about the self-study and special emphasis to the campus community
• Collected and organized examples of evidence from every campus unit
• Coordinated the assurance self-study with the special emphasis on internationalization in order to advance campus strategic planning
• Involved a broad base of constituents in the revising of the document
Introduction: Why a Special Emphasis?

• Allows you to tailor self-study to institutional needs
• Increases campus interest in self-study
• Links self-study to ongoing campus priorities
• Focuses attention of campus and HLC
Communication: Why

- To inform the campus about accreditation
- To change the perception of the self-study
- To increase involvement in the self-study
Communication: What

- The special emphasis on internationalization
- Tailoring the criteria for accreditation to MSU
- Emphasize assessment as a means to improvement
- Tie special emphasis to criteria for accreditation
Communication: How

• Administrator’s Council
• Individual Meetings
• E-mail Updates
• Professional Development Seminars
• Website:
  http://www.accreditation2006.msu.edu
Communication

• Who?

• Where?

• When?
Managing and Analyzing Data

• Review each submission
• Consider constructing a database (begin this process early)
  – Who will need to access the data?
  – What purposes will the data serve?
  – What is the most efficient design?
  – Will the database be public?
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Unit Example Database

http://accreditation2006.msu.edu/local/User/user_menu.php
Integrating the Special Emphasis

• Overlapping Committees
• Shared Writing Responsibilities
• Structural Solutions
  – Separate documents?
  – Separate chapters?
  – Interwoven?
Writing and Revising

• One Primary Author
• 500+ Pages!
• Levels of Revision
• Public Comment Workshops
• Website
• Multiple Revisions, One Document
Publishing

• Formatting
• Technology
• Printing
• Costs
Conclusions

• Customize the entire self-study process
• Quality self-study requires time and resources (fiscal and human)
• These investments can pay off if you connect the self-study to ongoing priorities and initiatives
Contacts/Website

Karen Klomparens
Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School
(517) 353-3220
kklompar@msu.edu

Gregory Nicholson
nicho188@msu.edu

http://www.accreditation2006.msu.edu