

**John A. Logan College**  
**Carterville, IL 62918**

**Criterion Four – Sub Committee of North Central Association Self Study**

Those present for the meeting were as follows: Rebecca Borgsmiller, Keith Kendrick, Kim Dixon, Stacy Buckingham, Jerry Halstead, Ron Parks, Stacy Holloway, Sue Trammel, Steve McLaughlin, Eric Pulley, Greg Stettler, Mary Ellen Abell, Carol Mitchell, Linda Graves, Dale Marrs, Dennis White. Committee members not present: Barbara Throgmorton, Jeff McCreight, Mikolaj Sawicki, Monique Galvin, Roberta Brown.

The Sub Committee met March 26, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Rebecca Borgsmiller. Stacy Buckingham stated that the meeting was basically an introduction to the North Central process and stated that Jo Nast would be the speaker. She also stated that there have been several changes since last time an accreditation was done.

Jo Nast went over the changes that have occurred since last accreditation in 1997. All changes go into effect on January 2005. The North Central Commission is now known as the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. So you will hear more talk about the Higher Learning Commission than North Central. For past self-studies, the committee has always been able to look over case studies and documents from other schools. But since there are so many changes to the process, the committee will be starting at ground zero, without any other information to refer to. Jo is the Co-Chair of the North Central Accreditation along with Maxine Pyle soon to be Larry Peterson. The next accreditation will be April 2007 so the committee needs to get the process going. In 1999-2000 North Central decided that the traditional accreditation process needed an overhaul and an alternative accreditation process was established. The alternative accreditive process is called AQIP Academic Quality Improvement Program. Deb Payne has done a lot of training in AQIP. We have a lot of information on AQIP. However, the administration has chosen to go with the more traditional avenue for accreditation. This is now called PEAQ which stands for Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality. These changes started in 2000 with the PEAQ program. We are still working with five criteria just the same as in 1997, but those criteria have been changed dramatically. Five sub-committees have been pulled together which will look at each of the criterion along with a steering committee which provides leadership and overview for the entire process. There is also a committee working right now called the Mission and Values Committee headed up by Gayle Pesavento which started about a year ago rewriting the mission statement of the college. A lot of the information in that statement is going to be used to drive what our committee and other committees will do. The statement is close to being complete, but has not gone to the board at this time.

Jo asked that all committee members get acquainted with chapter 3 of the handout given by Stacy and Rebecca. The criterion is much clearer than before. The last time this was done the criterion was not broken down into core components. Jo felt that the revised document is a whole lot easier to work with. Jo also stated that you cannot look only at criterion four. You must read all the criteria. You have to get completely familiar with criterion four, but you must understand all the criteria. There will have to be a lot of work between committees and sub committees because this is a much more systemic process than in the past. Criterion four is broken down and has core components. The criterion is Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge. It is defined as: The organization promotes a life of learning for its faculty, administration, staff, and students by fostering and supporting inquiry, creativity, practice, and social responsibility in ways consistent with its mission. Under that statement, there are four core components and those are the things that probably will be used to structure the sub committees. This is an outline that you can use and will be very helpful. If you look at page 3.2 of the handout, this is where there is more discussion in a contextual manner of what you are actually looking for. This criterion is on pages 3.2.12 to 3.2.15. Jo stated that this information is extremely important and she encourages all members to read through all criterions. In section 3.3, this is called Exploring the Usefulness of Cross-Cutting Themes as Context for Evaluation. This is extremely important to read also.

The four themes that North Central is going to be looking for throughout the accreditation process are on page 3.32. After these themes, there is section 3.4 which deals with Commission Statements which we can refer to throughout the criterion. There is a statement on Diversity, Assessment of Student Learning and on General Education which are referred to a lot in the language of the criterion. Jo stated that she will be attending an annual meeting of the North Central Association. Over the next two years, the college will be sending teams to this meeting. Logan staff will be breaking up into groups and attending as many sessions as possible that deal with specific criterion issues. Jo will be attending sessions for co-chairs of the process. Jo stated that by fall the committee should have a lot more information about the changes in criterion.

We are introducing the Accreditation process this Spring. The committees will not meet again until the fall and that is when the real work will begin. The initial report will not be due to the co-chairs until spring of 2006. This will leave a year and a half to complete the work of the committees. This really isn't a lot of time considering the work to be done by these committees. The co-chairs receive a document in spring of 2006, then they have until summer or fall to pull everyone's information together to make one document that is actually sent to the team who will come and do our accreditation in spring 2007. There will be a site visit in April 2007. We have material about North Central case studies dealing with the previous criterion in Jo's office. If you are interested in reading any of this information or if you have questions, please see Jo. We do not have any case studies that are dealing with the new criterion. Jo will be attending as many sessions as possible at the annual meeting, and try to find out what North Central really wants.

There are also regional meetings of North Central that will probably take place next fall. We hope to get a better idea of how to develop our self-study at this meeting. We will network with Colleges who have already completed the process to get information on how the process works, under the new criterion.

The committee will not meet again until fall semester. Stacy and Rebecca will work on setting up sub-committees and a time line prior to the fall semester. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.