

DRAFT Accreditation Process

UAF has a self-study due in early 2011, and will have a site visit in Fall 2011. NWCCU has a new accreditation process and standards. The new accreditation process would normally take seven years to complete, but UAF will need to complete it in the next two years. As yet, detailed standards have not been prepared; all that is available is an outline. The new standards are projected to be complete in February 2010.

The new NWCCU accreditation process can be summarized as ‘plan, implement, assess, improve’. The accreditation process is based on UAF’s mission, and our report to the commission must show that we are fulfilling our mission. Documentation is essential at each step. So goals, plans and their implementation need to be developed with those requirements in mind.

The first step (“Standard One”) is to identify and communicate a clearly defined institutional mission and core themes within that mission. (Themes are simply the most important parts of the mission). “Institutions are expected to identify goals and intended outcomes, each with assessable indicators of achievement, for its mission and for [each of] its core themes. These indicators are the foundation for assessment of achievements and effectiveness”. (NWCCU accreditation workshop materials)

A. Process for Standard One:

1. UAF wide committee will be selected to identify the themes, and associated goals and outcomes, and develop the assessment plane including indicators. In doing this they need to use existing planning documents (recall, our last full accreditation review was in 2001), but they should also modify the theme and goals as needed to reflect changes in the institution. Also, earlier documents were not written with this new accreditation process in mind, and so we need to think how to recast the themes and goals so that we can do the required assessment and analysis.

The UAF-wide committee members would consist of Dean of the Graduate School, Assistant Provost (representing General Studies and cross-university student success initiatives), and one representative from each school or college or research institute or CES (senior faculty who is also a member of the unit committee, described below) and the Library and the Leach ed to id

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mission but has not been a focus of accreditation reviews, before. The Provost and VCR are discussing how best to include it in this process.