Higher Learning Commission Site Visit

Feedback Re: Course Activity Documentation
May 2014
According to the Higher Education Associations (e.g., ACE, APLU, AASCU) & Regional Accrediting Commissions (e.g., HLC):

- All higher education institutions undergoing accreditation must provide evidence of, “success with respect to student achievement in relation to the institution’s mission.”
  - Evidence of the student learning experience
  - Evaluation of student academic performance
  - Post-graduation outcomes
Evidence of the student learning experience i.e., how the students are learning:
That is, the kinds of experiences that we expect students to have inside and outside the classroom

- During the HLC site visit, team members reviewed course section syllabi and course content to determine:
  - Appropriateness of student learning experiences by course/s for specific degree or certificate programs
  - Academic activity across disciplines, delivery modes (e.g., online, mixed f2f, on campus), and credit hour ranges
  - Frequency of classes each week and other scheduled activities required as a part of the course
Highly Favorable Response for NIU’s CAD!

- Captures student learning experiences across all delivery formats and credit hours
- In specific, accounts for amount of instructional or contact time assigned in-class and homework expectations of typical student for the credit hours earned
Immediate (2014) Improvements

• The following improvements were discussed at the CAD College Reps meeting (19 May, 2014) to reduce chair/director time on CAD
  • Explore the possibility of an automated reminder to faculty (with copy to chair) during “Faculty Submission” phase
  • Highlight course sections that may need more attention by chairs- e.g., online courses, new courses, and new faculty/instructor teaching a course, during “Chair/Director Assessment and Verification” phase.
  • Provide brief workshops at college level for new faculty/instructional staff in Fall 2014