

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
FINAL TEAM REPORT**

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Campus plans prior to attending the institute

Prior to attending the institute, the General Education Committee (GEC) subcommittee recommended the university address the following goals: 1. Re-examine the reason for general education; 2. Revise and streamline the general education proposal and submission process; 3. Promote student and faculty awareness of the general education program and the potentially powerful role of the program in students' development; 4. Improve the design and delivery of general education classes at NIU; and 5. Review the general education assessment plan and identify needed resources for implementation.

Expectations for team while at the Institute

The team envisioned working on the following four tasks: 1. Revising the general education program's student learning outcomes to ensure that they are outcomes-based, 2. Revising the general education program's assessment plan to better align with the newly emerging goals, 3. Beginning the process of course-mapping to ensure that the courses in the general education program are effective in addressing the goals, and 4. Strategizing about how to best facilitate discussion and progress in the general education reform among shared governance bodies within NIU.

Plan developed for returning to campus

The team has decided to re-direct its effort from a focus on general education goals to a focus on goals for the baccalaureate degree at NIU. The team feels that this change in focus will facilitate the implementation of a shared responsibility by the entire university for the preparation of graduate from NIU.

The following plan has been developed at the Institute:

1. Engage the university community (academic affairs, student affairs, students, staff, etc.) in a dialog regarding the need for outcome-based baccalaureate goals for student learning and accountability (Members of Team)(Completed by Spring Break 2009)

Summer 2008

- Hold bi-weekly team meetings through summer to plan for campus-wide presentation at the start of Fall term

- Develop support from university administration for planning and implementation plan
- Identify nationally recognized consultant to address the university community regarding the importance of developing outcomes-based student learning goals for the baccalaureate degree
- Establish agenda and mechanisms for discussion and dialog sessions with the campus community
- Appoint Baccalaureate Degree Review Task Force (Provost by end of summer 2008)

Fall 2008 – Spring 2009

- Discuss goals – focus groups (use current NIU goals and various models including Strategic Planning Task Force on Curricular Innovation and LEAP)
- Recommend goals for baccalaureate degree by Baccalaureate Degree Review Task Force
- Develop mission statement
- Review by campus community
- Revise by Task Force
- Adopt by governance system

2. Develop implementation plan (Planning completed 2009-2010)

- Appoint Baccalaureate Goals Implementation Task Force (will include members from Baccalaureate Review Task Force (By Provost in Summer 2009))
- Review of current system & gap analysis
- Complete SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis
- Develop curricular model
- Perform course mapping
- Hold campus-wide discussion
- Create revisions
- Develop assessment plan
- Develop timeline for implementation

Resources Needs:

- Acting Coordinator – ½ time buy out for 2008-2009 & 2009-2010, plus two months' salary for Summer 2009 & 2010
- Graduate Assistant – ½ time
- Consultant plus travel expenses
- Travel – Professional Development for Coordinator (annual AAC&U meeting, annual spring AAC&U General Education Meeting)