North Central Association
INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION

Site Visit: Fall 2004
Institutions Involved in the Accreditation Process

- North Central Association (NCA)
- Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
- KU
What is NCA Accreditation?

• NCA accredits diverse set of institutions in north central region of U.S.
• One of six regional accrediting associations
• Committed to developing and maintaining high standards of excellence
• Baseline standards for post-secondary educational entities
What is Involved in the NCA Process

- Accreditation voluntary and conducted by peers
- Mission-driven
- Institutional self-analysis
- Peer review (consultant-evaluators)
Phases of the NCA Process

- Self-study process and report
- Site visit team and report
- Commission decision
The Value of Accreditation to KU

- Retain federal funding
- Review and evaluate body of work over last ten years
- Identify how we are meeting our mission
- Note: Accreditation is NOT a useful lever for additional funding
Overarching Goals for Self-Study Process

Beyond accreditation, we want to

• add value to the institution and

• reaffirm our commitment to continuous improvement.
Implementing the Self-Study Process

- Self-Study Steering Committee
- Staff/Advisors
NCA Accreditation Steering Committee

Barbara Romzek, Chair, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Maurice Bryan, Graduate Student, American Studies
Perri Cagle, Assistant Professor, Allied Health, Physical Therapy, Rehabilitative Services – KUMC
Diana Carlin, Dean, Graduate School and International Programs
Bill Carswell, Associate Dean, Architecture and Urban Design
Helen Connors, Associate Dean, Nursing – KUMC
Ed Dismuke, Dean, School of Medicine – Wichita
Diane Goddard, Comptroller, Office of Comptroller
Jim Hartman, Chair/Professor, English
Kathleen McCluskey-Fawcett, Senior Vice Provost, Office of the Provost
Kathryn Nemeth-Tuttle, Director, Freshman-Sophomore Advising Center
Dallas Rakestraw, Undergraduate Student, Political Science
Allen Rawitch, Vice Chancellor and Dean, Academic Affairs/Graduate Studies – KUMC
Mary Ryan, Associate Dean, Edwards Campus

Catherine Schwoerer, Associate Professor, Business
Lloyd Sponholtz, Associate Professor, History
Val Stella, Distinguished Professor, Pharmaceutical Chemistry
Paul Stevens, Assistant Professor, Music and Dance
Susan Twombly, Professor, Teaching and Leadership
Steve Warren, Director, Institute for Life Span Studies
Kim Wilcox, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

SUPPORT STAFF
Sandra Gautt, Vice Provost, Office of the Provost
Robin Lehman, Director, External Relations/Special Projects, Office of the Provost/KU Center for Research
Deb Teeter, University Director, Office of Institutional Research and Planning

RESOURCE STAFF
Bill Atkinson, Associate Dean, Program Accreditation and Evaluation – KUMC
Joe Bast, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies – KUMC
Terry Turner, Director, Institutional Research – KUMC
Marian Orzulak, Administrative Assistant, Office of Institutional Research and Planning
Expectations for Self-Study Process

• Focus on entire institution
• Build on existing processes
• Discover and identify the university’s work
• Identify patterns of evidence
Design of Self-Study Process

• Provide opportunity for reflective and analytic dialogue.

• Communicate substantive institutional issues to the university community.

• Assess the current status of outcomes from the planning initiatives.

• Provide a perspective of current or anticipated challenges.
The Focus of Our Self-Study

- University of Kansas Mission
- *Initiative 2001*, KU’s strategic planning document
- NCA Criteria
University of Kansas Mission Statement
(excerpt)

“The University of Kansas is a major comprehensive research and teaching university that serves as a center for learning, scholarship, and creative endeavor.”
Initiative 2001

- Strategic planning process initiated in 1997
- Two years of university-wide discussions about KU’s future
- Identified three priorities:
  - Act as One University
  - Serve Kansans
  - Build Premier Learning Communities
- Many specific activities instituted and others in progress
Building on Previous Initiatives
Example

Initiative 2001 and the SB 345 Institutional Improvement Plan focused attention on undergraduate research and international education.

- Definitions established for undergraduate research and international experiences
- UG research and international activities inventoried
- Experiences will be noted on students’ transcripts
NCA Criteria for Accreditation

Patterns of evidence will be developed to address each of five criteria:

One: Mission and Integrity
Two: Preparing for the Future
Three: Student Learning and Effective Teaching
Four: Acquiring, Creating, and Applying Knowledge
Five: Engagement and Service
Committee Self-Study Process

The Committee will

- Review the concepts for each criterion
- Examine the data
- Identify patterns of evidence
Communication Goals for NCA Process

- Engage KU’s internal constituencies in NCA accreditation process.
- Communicate KU’s self-evaluation to NCA.
- Enhance KU’s overall communication flow.
Schedule for NCA Process

Phase I: Self Study – November 2002 to April 2004

Phase II: Site Visit – Fall 2004

Phase III: Final Decision – Spring 2005
### Timeline for NCA Self-Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 2002</td>
<td>NCA Steering Committee formed</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2002</td>
<td>Kickoff of accreditation process</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2002 –</td>
<td>Steering Committee leads self-study process and establishes patterns</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2004</td>
<td>Complete first draft of Self-Study Report and vet on all campuses</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2004</td>
<td>Compile final Self-Study Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>April – July 2004</td>
<td>Make arrangements for site visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2004</td>
<td>Evaluation visit by site team</td>
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What is your role in the process?