

# NCA Accreditation Update

N O V E M B E R 2 0 0 5

Wayne State University has been accredited since 1915 by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, one of the six regional agencies that accredit U.S. colleges and universities at the institutional level. Accreditation provides assurance to the public and to prospective students that standards of quality have been met.

A team from the Commission will visit Wayne State February 12-14, 2007 to evaluate whether the university continues to meet the requirements for accreditation.

## What is Accreditation?

Accreditation is a process by which an institution's formal educational activities are evaluated against criteria established by the accrediting agency. This includes a broad study of university governance and administration, financial stability, admissions and student services, institutional resources, student academic achievement, institutional effectiveness, and relationships with constituencies inside and outside the institution.

## Why is this important?

Maintenance of accreditation is important for a variety of reasons. It certifies that Wayne State complies with minimum standards for institutions of higher learning. Accreditation provides assurance to the public and to prospective students that standards of quality have been met.

## Who is accrediting Wayne State?

The North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools. The Higher Learning Commission of the NCA is responsible for evaluating Wayne State for its institutional-level accreditation. General reviews for accreditation status are conducted at least once every ten years.

## What are the major features of the process?

There are two major components to the accreditation process:

First, Wayne State must prepare and submit a wide-ranging self-study document which evaluates Wayne State against the accreditation criteria established by the Higher Learning Commission. Second, Wayne State will host a team of visitors from the Higher Learning Commission from February 12-14, 2007. At this site visit, the team will investigate evidence presented in the self-study, meet with faculty, students, and staff, and make recommendations.



This is the first issue of NCA Accreditation Update. This newsletter will be compiled and distributed monthly beginning in November 2005 to February 2007 when the NCA self-study and site visit have been completed. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information to the Wayne State community about the self-study and reaccreditation process and to address issues related to these efforts. We invite you to forward any suggestions you have for topics to be addressed in future updates. Suggestions can be sent to:

Sandra Yee,  
University Libraries  
aj0533@wayne.edu



WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY



## 2007 NCA Accreditation Visit Steering Committee

### Co-Chairs

**Paula Wood**, College of Education  
**Sandra Yee**, University Libraries

### Provost Liaison

**Hilary Ratner**, Provost's Office

### Staff

**Kathy Beard**, Provost's Office  
**Sharon Field**, College of Education  
**Jan Utz**, Library and Information  
Science Program

### Members

**Fran Ahern**, Facilities Planning and  
Management  
**Nancy Barrett**, Provost's Office, *ex  
officio*  
**John Camp**, Computing and Informa-  
tion Technology  
**Christy Chow**, College of Liberal Arts  
and Sciences, Chemistry  
**Jan Collins-Eaglin**, Counseling  
Services, ASC and EAS  
**Ahmad Ezzeddine**, School of Business  
Administration  
**Gary Dent**, Human Resources  
**Charles Elder**, College of Liberal Arts  
and Sciences  
**Naomi Ervin**, College of Nursing  
**Linda Falkewicz**, Student Affairs  
**Joan Gossman**, Purchasing  
**Victor Green**, Governmental and  
Community Affairs  
**David Grignon**, School of Medicine  
**Michele Grimm**, College of  
Engineering  
**Jim Hartway**, College of Fine and  
Performing Arts  
**Gloria Heppner**, Research  
**Jerry Herron**, Honors Program  
**JoAnne Holbert**, College of Education  
**Loraleigh Keashly**, College of Fine and  
Performing Arts  
**Frederica Lombard**, Law School  
**Bernice Lopata**, Development and  
Alumni Affairs  
**John McGinnity**, College of Pharmacy  
& Allied Health  
**Nardina Mein**, University Libraries  
**Paul Moniodis**, Institutional Research  
**Julie O'Connor**, Research  
**Charles Parrish**, College of Liberal Arts  
and Sciences, AAUP/AFT President  
**Randolph Paschke**, School of Business  
**Kelli Pugh**, Study Abroad  
**Howard Shapiro**, Provost's Office  
**David Strauss**, Dean of Students'  
Office  
**Jeff Trzeciak**, University Libraries  
**Thomas Wilhelm**, Academic Affairs  
**Seymour Wolfson**, College of Liberal  
Arts and Sciences, Academic Senate  
**Susan Zwieg**, Admissions,  
Undergraduate & Financial Aid

## ■ ■ ■ ■ FOUR THEMES ■ ■ ■ ■

There are four cross-cutting themes present  
in the criteria for reaccreditation.

### THE FUTURE-ORIENTED ORGANIZATION

- Engages in planning
- Is driven by the mission
- Understands social and economic change
- Focuses on the future of constituents
- Integrates new technology

### THE LEARNING-FOCUSED ORGANIZATION

- Assesses student learning
- Supports learning
- Supports scholarship
- Creates the capacity for lifelong learning
- Strengthens organizational learning

### THE CONNECTED ORGANIZATION

- Serves the common good
- Serves constituents
- Creates a culture of service
- Collaborates
- Engages in healthy internal communication

### THE DISTINCTIVE ORGANIZATION

- Has an unambiguous mission
- Appreciates diversity
- Is accountable
- Is self-reflective
- Is committed to improvement

\*All information quoted from  
The Higher Learning  
Commission Handbook of Accreditation,  
version 1:10/03

## SELF-STUDY EVALUATION CRITERIA:

### Criterion One: *Mission & Integrity*

The organization operates with integrity to ensure the fulfillment of its mission through structures and processes that involve the board, administration, faculty, staff, and students.

### Criterion Two: *Preparing for the Future*

The organization's allocation of resources and its processes for evaluation and planning demonstrate its capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its education, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

### Criterion Three: *Student Learning and Effective Teaching*

The organization provides evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission.

### Criterion Four: *Acquisition, Discovery, and the Application of Knowledge*

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.

### Criterion Five: *Engagement and Service*

As called for by its mission, the organization identifies its constituencies and serves them in ways both value.

## SELF-STUDY WORKING GROUP CHAIRS

Criterion One:  
*Mission & Integrity*  
**Charles Elder**,  
College of Liberal Arts  
and Sciences

Criterion Two:  
*Preparing for the  
Future*  
**JoAnne Holbert**,  
College of Education

Criterion Three:  
*Student Learning  
and Effective Teaching*  
**Jerry Herron**,  
Honors Program

Criterion Four:  
*Acquisition, Discovery  
and Application of  
Knowledge*  
**Gloria Heppner**,  
Research

Criterion Five:  
*Engagement and Service*  
**Loraleigh Keashly**,  
College of Fine and  
Performing Arts