

## **Aligning Strategic Planning and AQIP Action Project Update**

*September 11, 2009*

### **A. Describe the past year's accomplishments and the current status of this Action Project:**

The Strategic Planning and AQIP Action project was initiated spring semester 2009. A decision was made to have the President's Planning Advisory Council serve as the action team for this project because the council is made up of representatives of faculty, administration, staff, and students and a key role of the council is to develop the strategic plan. Activities during the semester were designed to educate team members about AQIP and the five criteria for accreditation, as well as the college's previous planning process. Accomplishments included:

- A discussion to provide the action team with an understanding of the relationship between AQIP, the five accreditation criteria, and the planning process
- A review of the college's last strategic plan to create an awareness of the internal and external environment at the time of development, how the environment affected the development of goals and objectives, the accomplishments related to these goals and objectives, and an assessment of how the plan guided the college's actions
- A review and assessment of the methods used to gain input into the development of the previous strategic plan
- A review of best practices in aligning AQIP and strategic planning and a discussion of what might work best at Lakeland

A timeline/action plan was developed over the summer and will be reviewed by the action team at its first meeting in September.

### **B. Describe how the institution involved people in work on this Action project:**

The Planning Advisory Council represents all areas of the college. Faculty are appointed to the council through the collective bargaining unit. Six members are appointed to represent the teaching and non-teaching faculty. Two staff members are appointed by the staff association. Two administrators serve on the council. The academic administrator is appointed by the Executive Vice-President and Provost and the non-academic administrator is appointed by the President. Two students are selected through the student government association. The president's cabinet also serves on the council and consists of the executive vice president, three vice presidents, an associate vice president, the president's chief of staff, and the faculty and staff association presidents. Ad hoc members include the research manager, budget manager, and Dean of Students.

The entire campus community will have the opportunity to provide input into the development of the strategic plan during the upcoming year.

**C. Describe your planned next steps for this Action Project:**

Next steps for the project include:

- A review of the timeline/action plan
- Agreement on the alignment process
- Development of the process for creating the strategic plan
- Incorporation of feedback on the Systems Portfolio
- Pilot testing the process

**D. Describe any effective practices that have resulted from your work on this Action Project:**

An effective practice is the co-chairing of the action team by a faculty member and administrator. This allows us to easily pull together ideas from the entire campus community, as well as to recognize the existing perceptions before they become barriers.

**E. What challenges, if any, are you still facing in regards to this Action Project:**

The two greatest challenges we face are time and campus-wide inclusion. Members of the team are extremely busy, and it will take a significant commitment to achieve the project's goals this year. We will likely break into sub-committees to accommodate schedules and move forward.

The second challenge is to ensure campus-wide inclusion in the process of developing a strategic plan. It will be up to the members of the Planning Advisory Council to design a process that not only allows inclusion but encourages participation.

**F. If you would like to discuss the possibility of AQIP providing you help to stimulate progress on this action project, explain your needs(s) and tell us who to contact.**

The action team appreciates any feedback on this project.