University Begins Preparation for Institutional Self-Study and Reaccreditation

Every ten years, Saint Louis University engages in an institutional self-study in preparation for reaccreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association. Planning for reaccreditation began last year, including the appointment by the Provost last spring of the Steering Committee for Continued Accreditation. The Steering Committee will lead the University in conducting the self-study and preparing for the 2011-2012 HLC site team visit.

The theme for the upcoming self-study, which focuses on the future, is *Magis: Advancing Mission into Saint Louis University's Third Century*. It centers on the University's commitment to and essence of the mission, its longevity, and its viability for the future. In referring to a time period, the theme of the last self-study, *A Decade of Renaissance*, is continued. The goals for the self-study and reaccreditation processes are:

- assess SLU's effectiveness in advancing its mission
- gather substantive evidence to tell the SLU story and demonstrate that the criteria for accreditation are met
- inform strategic planning by proposing institutional strategies to address identified challenges and to take advantage of opportunities for improvement
- engage in active organizational learning
- strengthen the SLU community by creating opportunities for widespread and in-depth engagement in the process and by integrating the knowledge and expertise of stakeholders
- achieve continued accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

In its self-study, SLU must address these five criterion outlined by the Higher Learning Commission:

**Criterion One: Mission and Integrity**

*Criterion Statement:* 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**

*Criterion Statement:* 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**

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

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

*Criterion Statement:* 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**

*Criterion Statement:* As called for by its mission, the organization identifies its constituencies and serves them in ways both value.
Subcommittees focusing on each of the criterion will draw their membership from throughout SLU, as well as from University trustees, alumni, and St. Louis community leaders. Many other members of the SLU community also will have opportunities to contribute to the self-study over the next two and one half years.

The Steering Committee that will provide oversight of the self-study process, including the preparation of SLU’s self-study report, is comprised of the following members:

Chair: Miriam Joseph, Pius XII Memorial Library  
HLC Liaison: Steve Sanchez, Provost’s Office  
Criterion 1 Co-Chairs: John James, College of Education and Public Service; Lisa Reiter, Campus Ministry  
Criterion 2 Co-Chairs: Leanna Fenneberg, Student Development; Paaige Turner, College of Arts & Sciences and Provost’s Office  
Criterion 3 Co-Chairs: Jennifer Giancola, School for Professional Studies; Sue Tebb, School of Social Work  
Criterion 4 Co-Chairs: Donna LaVoie, College of Arts & Sciences; James Willmore, School of Medicine  
Criterion 5 Co-Chairs: Mary Domahidy, College of Education and Public Service; Scott Smith, Student Development  
Madrid Campus Representative: Paul Vita  
Student Representative: Ashley Garcia  
Writer: Ron Modras, College of Arts & Sciences  
At-Large Members: Scott Safranski, John Cook School of Business; Ben Asen, College of Arts & Sciences  
Provost’s Academic Liaison: Marla Berg-Weger, Provost’s Office  
Staff Support: Mary Aregbesola, Coordinator, Provost’s Office

President Lawrence Biondi, SJ, and Interim Provost Manoj Patankar are the Executive Staff liaisons to the Steering Committee.

A Web site for the self-study is under development to provide ongoing communication for the SLU community. Newslink will be used for announcements of University-wide activities and events related to the self-study.

Please mark your calendar for the official “launch” of SLU’s self-study on Thursday, October 8th, from 2:30-4:00pm in Busch Student Center, Room 170, when Dr. John Taylor, SLU’s liaison from the Higher Learning Commission, will make a presentation to the University community about accreditation and the self-study process.

Questions? Would you like to arrange a presentation for your unit? Contact Miriam Joseph, Self-Study Steering Committee Chair josephme@slu.edu; 997-3584  
Steve Sanchez, Assistant Provost ssanche6@slu.edu; 977-2611

Faculty Senate Meeting – September 29, 2009