



FORTNIGHT

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A Communiqué focusing on topics related to Outcomes Assessment, Institutional Effectiveness, and Institutional Research produced jointly by the Office of the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) at the College of Staten Island/The City University of New York
www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment

WHAT IS FORTNIGHT?

A **fortnight** is a unit of time equivalent to 14 days. The term derives from the Old English *feorwertyne niht*, meaning "fourteen nights." Inspired by the opportunities and challenges of Middle States Standard 14 and the desire to share information and best practices, **FORTNIGHT** is a communication vehicle which is distributed online to the campus community. Prior issues are available on the Office of the Associate Provost website, at www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment

DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC PROGRAM ACCREDITATION: THE COLLEGE HOSTS VISITING TEAMS IN BOTH DIVISIONS

November saw a flurry of activity at the College of Staten Island related to evaluation team visits for discipline-specific program accreditation: a team from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) was on campus from the 8th to the 11th to review the Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy (DPT), two evaluators from the National Council of Accreditation for Teacher Education (NCATE) completed a "mock" visit of Education Programs from the 8th to the 10th, and a three-person team from ABET (formerly known as the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) came to oversee the B.S. in Computer Science on the 16th and 17th.

Dr. Jeff Rothman, Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy, led the effort to complete the DPT self-study over the last 2 years. Dr. Ann Lubrano, Dean Gail Simmons, and core faculty in the Department of Physical Therapy assisted with final document preparation. Onsite accreditation team members visited campus facilities including the Library, teaching areas and clinical research laboratories; spoke with Physical Therapy faculty, adjunct clinical faculty, representatives from clinical internship sites, student cohorts, graduates, employers, and members of the CSI administration; and met with representatives of the CUNY Graduate Center. CAPTE will convene next April to review the program and determine the accreditation status.

Dr. Brian Carolan, Associate Professor of Education, and Dr. El Samuels, Assessment Coordinator for the Education Department, prepared the materials for NCATE's "Continuing Improvement Pilot Visit," a precursor to the Education Department's visit scheduled for March 14-16, 2010. The intense visit by two evaluators, who had been approved by the NCATE Board of Examiners, included 16 hours of campus interviews in 2½ days. Among others, they met with President Morales, Provost Fritz, Associate Provost Holak, Dean Saulnier, department chairs, Education Program coordinators, advisory committees, and current candidates (students). The report that the evaluators issued is already being used to prepare the College for the actual NCATE visit in the spring.

ABET, an accrediting agency for applied science, computing, engineering, and technology education, recently visited CSI to evaluate the Computer Science B.S. program. Professors Deborah Sturm and Roberta Klibaner spearheaded the effort to prepare the self-study and other documents ahead of the visit. One challenge was to update the "Program Education Objectives" to address the expected career and professional accomplishments of computer science graduates. ABET examiners met with President Morales, Provost Fritz, Dean Simmons, computer science faculty, and toured the campus. They also spoke with Associate Provost Holak and OIRA Coordinator Warrick Bell about the College's overall efforts related to assessment and the improvement of institutional effectiveness.

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize members of the Physical Therapy, Education and Computer Science Departments for the significant time and coordination necessary to prepare a self-study and host evaluators. Many commendations and positive, constructive comments resulted from these three visits. Visiting team members made mention of the high level of attention being paid to assessment at the College of Staten Island. Kudos to everyone involved!



PREPARING FOR THE MIDDLE STATES SELF-STUDY: STANDARD 6

Standard 6: Integrity

In the conduct of its programs and activities involving the public and the constituencies it serves, the institution demonstrates adherence to ethical standards and its own stated policies, providing support for academic and intellectual freedom.

In all that an institution does, in its interactions with constituent groups, and in its communication with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, integrity should be manifest in its conduct. Standard 6 pervades CSI's practices and policies: information about tenure and promotion policies is made available to faculty members; students have access to updated catalogs, registration processes, announced deadlines, and grievance processes; the College's promotional and recruiting materials are honest and truthful in their depiction of programs and the institution. These are just a few of the ways in which CSI meets the standard for integrity, one that can run through many of the other Middle States accreditation standards.

CLOSING THE LOOP: NEW SYSTEMS IMPLEMENTED BY THE OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH

Several system innovations have been established in recent months by the staff of the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research. In October 2008, the office began compiling a "Faculty Expertise Database" by discipline and faculty member. This listing of faculty expertise and interest is circulated to constituents in order to foster collaboration, target specific grant funding opportunities, and highlight the work of researchers. A more recent initiative was instituted to address the increasing needs of the larger grant applicant pool on campus. The Office now has a process in place to compile listings of external funding sources noted in PSC-CUNY grant applications; this information will be used to follow up with Principal Investigators in an effort to better assist them with customized funding plans. For more information about these efforts or other office services, please contact Lisa Ebert, Director of Sponsored Programs and Research, via email at Lisa.Ebert@csi.cuny.edu or by phone at 718.982.2254.

CAMPUS UPDATES

Earlier this semester, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness Susan Holak initiated meetings with individual academic departments which are attended by the divisional dean, department chair, department representative to the College-wide Assessment Committee, OIRA Coordinator Warrick Bell, and OIRA Survey Coordinator Barbara Cohen. These "baseline" meetings focus specifically on gathering and confirming documentation, reviewing the assessment milestone checklist, and having a focused discussion about department assessment progress at the program and course levels. To date, meetings have been held with Business, Chemistry, History, Modern Languages, and Nursing. As a result of these targeted sessions, revisions have been suggested in Department/Program Assessment Schematics, document lists have been reconciled, and ideas for future program changes have been generated.

CUNY NEWS AND EVENTS

The CUNY central Office of Institutional Research recently announced that it is planning to distribute the CUNY Student Experience Survey during Spring 2010. This study, which has been administered every two years since 2002, provides information on students' familial and community backgrounds, as well as their levels of preparedness and support in non-academic areas. This survey is another lens through which to gain insights about our students' needs, in order to better serve them.

FOR TIGHTLY NOTES

On October 25, 1644, the Connecticut Colony ordered "that there shall be a public day of thanksgiving through this Jurisdiction, upon Wednesday com **fortnight**."

J. Hammond Trumbull, ed. *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, prior to the Union with New Haven Colony, May, 1665*. Hartford: Brown & Parsons, 1850, p. 113.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to submit items related to departmental assessment projects, College institutional effectiveness activities, committee announcements, and best practices by **December 11, 2009**, for consideration to appear in the next communiqué.

