



# FORTNIGHT

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## 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 Associate Provost’s website at [www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment](http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment)

## CUNY UFS ADDRESSES MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION

With one or more CUNY campuses involved in the decennial Middle States self-study process in any given year, and others preparing the mid-decade Periodic Review Report (PRR), the University Faculty Senate opted to focus its Spring 2010 conference on Middle States accreditation issues, held at the Graduate Center on Friday, April 30. Entitled “Middle States Review – Opportunities and Pitfalls,” the event was attended by about 60 faculty members from across the campuses. Following greetings by UFS Chair Manfred Philipp, the program featured opening remarks by Executive Vice Chancellor Alexandra Logue, who noted that CUNY institutions, as members of a large system, were in a position to share information about the accreditation process and learn from the experiences of others. She also reiterated data about New York State reaccreditation results: SUNY campuses have tended to have fewer follow-up and monitoring reports than CUNY institutions.

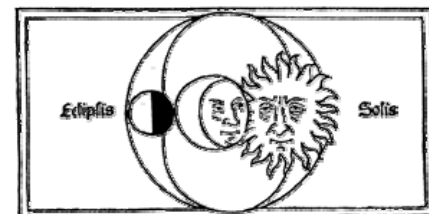
Two panels made up of representatives from Baruch, Hunter, Queensborough, and New York City College of Technology – all campuses that have recently undergone the self-study process – followed the Executive Vice Chancellor’s comments. Several speakers noted the critical importance attached to the selection of the visiting team chair, usually a college president. Baruch College’s Provost, James McCarthy, spoke about his institution’s significant allocation of time and resources to the process; given that Baruch College has offsite locations, including one in Singapore, their expenses included not only local costs but also airline tickets and overseas travel, for example. Dr. Sandra Clarkson, Hunter College, stated that the Middle States process was “extremely good” for the institution in that it “re-energized” people. The College of Staten Island was represented at the timely UFS conference by Dr. Alyson Bardsley, College Council Chair Dr. Sandi Cooper, Dr. Katie Cumiskey, Associate Provost Susan Holak, Professor Tracey Jones, Interim Dean Alfred Levine, and Dr. Linda Roccas.

## PREPARING FOR THE MIDDLE STATES SELF-STUDY: STANDARD 13

### Standard 13: Related Educational Programs

*The institution’s programs or activities that are characterized by particular content, focus, location, mode of delivery, or sponsorship meet appropriate standards.*

Among the many types of program offerings relevant to this standard are those to support basic skills acquisition, certificate programs, distance learning, non-credit courses, experiential learning, and instruction offered at branch campuses or off-site. The College of Staten Island offers non-credit courses through its Continuing Education program and grants certificates in Modern China Studies, Leadership in Education, and Nursing specialties. While the number of both asynchronous and hybrid online offerings is growing, the College does not have any branch campuses at this time. Enrollment, retention, and completion rates, as well as client satisfaction surveys can be used to monitor and improve student success.



## CLOSING THE LOOP: DESIGN SERVICES OFFICE REVAMPS PUBLICATION APPROVAL PROCESS

All college publications require editorial and design approval before being mass-produced, distributed, or mailed. Prior to 2009, most academic program literature, announcements, schedules, study abroad program descriptions, and event flyers were submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs for review and approval. The processing volume and backlog grew with increasing demand, until plans for a new system were devised. For several months, publications were tracked in a formal log to determine source, process time, and routing. Janice Awerbuch, Director of Design Services, and Terry Mares, Copy Writer, then analyzed this log and suggested new routing processes and approval mechanisms. Workflow for publications has been improved and streamlined as a result.

## CAMPUS UPDATES: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HOSTS NCATE VISIT AS FINAL STEP IN CONTINUED ACCREDITATION PROCESS

The College of Staten Island's Education Department recently underwent a rigorous review visit, as part of the maintenance of its national accreditation. Three representatives from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) visited campus from March 14-16, accompanied by a member of the NCATE Board and the New York State Education Department's Supervisor of Teacher Education. Before arriving on campus, this team pored over three years of data, sample work, minutes, and other exhibits demonstrating the quality of service and instruction provided to Education students, not only by the College's Education Department, but also by the College as a whole.

The team's visit addressed many factors related to student success including college resources, administrative and operational support, access to diverse faculty and fieldwork sites, and the extent to which the institution assesses its operations and acts on the basis of results in an effort to improve what it does. Team members interviewed a broad spectrum of campus leadership, faculty, and staff; toured some of the education-important facilities; interviewed current and past Education students; and visited some of the schools where CSI students complete their fieldwork. At the schools, the team interviewed teachers, administrators, and college-appointed student teaching supervisors.

After reviewing hundreds of exhibits and interviewing constituents on and off-campus, the NCATE team concluded that CSI satisfied all areas currently and previously cited for review. The team soundly commended the Education Department on its rich culture of assessment, noting that not only has the College matured in its ability to monitor its operations, but that it demonstrates facility with making sound decisions based on the information it collects.

We would like to congratulate Dr. Brian Carolan, Associate Professor of Education, who spearheaded the accreditation effort along with Dr. El Samuels, Assessment Coordinator in the Education Department, on their tremendous efforts to compile and present data, compose NCATE documents, and lead the process. We also take this opportunity to acknowledge the leadership of Dr. Ken Gold, Chair of the Education Department, and the important contributions of all the faculty, staff, and fieldwork site teachers and staff who contributed to this successful outcome.

## CUNY NEWS AND EVENTS

### Zicklin Dean Addresses AACSB Audience, Notes Assessment Changes

Dr. John Elliott, Dean of the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College, addressed more than 400 attendees at the recent AACSB (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) Assessment Conference held in Manhattan from March 9-11, 2010. In his comments related to the challenging Assessment of Learning standards for business accreditation, Dean Elliott mentioned that, in response to assessment information, the Zicklin School introduced a new course in oral and written communication at the MBA level and converted several undergraduate courses to communication-intensive formats, and instituted an undergraduate orientation. Dean Elliott also described a summer seminar for faculty that focuses on assessment. Dr. Susan Holak, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and Professor of Marketing, represented the College and the Business Department at this event.

## FORTNIGHTLY NOTES

Observing the centenary of Mark Twain's death on April 21, 1910, we find his Connecticut Yankee impressing King Arthur's court, spreading night across Britain with the help of an eclipse. "Within twenty-four hours ... delegations began to arrive, and from that time onward for a **fortnight** they kept coming."

Everyone is invited and encouraged to submit items related to departmental assessment projects, College institutional effectiveness activities, committee announcements, and best practices by **May 21, 2010**, for consideration to appear in the final communiqué of this academic year.

