

I saw a snowflake and after a long sigh, I began the process of preparing for yet another winter. Luckily the snow held off long enough for our visiting HLC Team to observe the many positive attributes of Lake State in relatively nice weather - but more on that later. In my November Report I'll provide a bit more about the HLC visit and future activities, Strategic Planning, information on this year's State of Michigan Distinguished Teacher Award, retirements, and an update on work needed for Michigan Hall (home of the Child Development Center).

HLC Visit:

The HLC re-accreditation visit occurred on October 24-26, 2011. The important result of the visit is that LSSU will be reaccredited with required future reports to be determined when the final report is issued. In their oral report, the Team noted that the University met all five criteria for accreditation. The Team also stated many positive attributes of the University including: numerous hands-on activities within the academic programs (specifically the Environmental Analysis Laboratory, Aquatic Research Laboratory and Robotics Laboratory); the diverse professional development activities accomplished by the faculty; the close mentoring relationships between our students and faculty; and the development of assessment across campus that has occurred in the last few years.

I'd like to thank the many members of LSSU and the local community, as well as the Board of Trustees, for their support in preparing for the visit and attendance at the many meetings that occurred during the on-campus visit. The HLC team made several comments about how friendly and open the campus was; specifically noting how well the three open forums with faculty, staff, and students went. LSSU will now wait for the draft report. The HLC provides the following timeline for post visit activity.

4 weeks after visit

- Team Chair completes draft of Team Report and sends it to the Commission staff and team members for review.

5 weeks after visit

- Commission staff liaison discusses draft with Team Chair.
- Team members submit corrections to Team Chair.

6 weeks after visit

- Team Chair sends draft Team Report to the organization (LSSU) for correction of errors of fact.

8 weeks

- LSSU responds to draft team report with corrections of errors of fact.

9 weeks after visit

- Team Chair completes final team report and submits it to the Commission.
- Commission duplicates team report and sends copies to the organization (LSSU) and the team.

11 weeks after visit (2 weeks after receipt of final report)

- LSSU sends response to team report to Commission and team and chooses a Readers Panel or Review Committee. (Commission policy requires a Review Committee review for certain team recommendations)
- Instructions of what will need to be done next will be provided by the HLC.

Note: The Criteria for Accreditation, the Accreditation Process, and the Minimal Expectations for Accreditation are all scheduled to change - soon. Actions necessary beyond 11 weeks are really not well defined yet.

Strategic Planning:

The Shared Governance, Strategic Planning and Budget Committee (SP&B) has submitted revised Mission, Vision, and Core Value Statements to the President and to the Board of Trustees for approval.

These documents have served to guide the strategic planning process over the last year and have been widely distributed across campus for comment. Approval of these statements will reaffirm the BOT's commitment to the strategic planning process and enable the SP&B to recommend to the BOT a strategic plan for LSSU before the end of the academic year. I've included them here.

Mission

Our mission at Lake Superior State University is to help students develop their full potential. We launch students on paths to rewarding careers and productive, satisfying lives. We serve the regional, state, national and global communities by contributing to the growth, dissemination, and application of knowledge.

Vision Statement

Our programs grow and evolve in ways that keep our graduates at the cutting edge of technological and societal advances. As such, we will be viewed by our constituents as:

- The preferred regional choice for students who seek a quality education which provides a competitive edge in an evolving job market.
- An institution where relevant concepts are taught by quality faculty, and are paired with practical real-world experience to provide a well-rounded education.
- An institution which capitalizes on its location to instill graduates with an understanding of environmental issues and an overarching desire to be responsible stewards of the environment.
- A University that is highly student centered and empowers all students to realize their highest individual potential.

Core Values

- Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Teaching is our first priority and focuses on providing student/faculty interaction, learning, and research in current, relevant programs.
- Opportunity. Students have a wide range of opportunities to grow academically, professionally, culturally, and socially. Opportunities are provided via work-study assignments, student organizations, internships, community outreach, and leadership.
- Diversity. Students experience a campus community environment which is inclusive and welcoming.
- Ethics and Values. The University promotes an environment which values honesty, openness, and courteous behavior where everyone is treated with respect.
- Stewardship. LSSU provides a framework in which to leave the university and region financially and environmentally sound for future generations of LSSU students, alumni, and friends.

Professor of the Year Award:

The selection process for the Presidents Council's Sixth Annual Professor of the Year Award recipient is underway. The award is intended for tenured faculty members who demonstrate sustained commitment to undergraduate instruction and who are nominated by their institutions for excellence in fulfillment of the selection criteria. Every year the Presidents Council: State Universities of Michigan (PCSUM) accepts one nominee from each State University for the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year Award. Selection of the award recipient by the PCSUM is based on the candidate's contribution to student learning, interactions with undergraduate students, incorporation of experiential learning into the classroom, academic advising, the undergraduate research opportunities provided to students, and scholarly activities.

I encourage faculty to nominate a candidate or themselves for this award. Submit nominations directly to me for review by the Provost's Council. One important change in the process is that past nominees were required to be Full Professors. This year the award is open to all Tenured Faculty. The award

announcement and criteria are available on the Provost Website. All nominations should include all the necessary components as denoted in the criteria; except the letter from the Provost. Nominations are due by January 9th, 2012.

Retirements:

Three faculty have announced their intentions to retire, effective December 16th, 2011. They are Jim Madden (School of Criminal Justice, Fire Science, and EMS), Ann Marinoni (School of Business), and MaryAnne Shannon (School of Nursing). Please wish them well and thank them for their many years of service to LSSU.

Child Development Center Building (Michigan Hall) Update:

LSSU recently contracted U.P. Engineers & Architects (UPEA) to study Michigan Hall's lead issues, provide a cost estimate for addressing these issues, and perform a lead based clearance. As a supplement to the lead removal, we also asked UPEA to estimate the cost of some building upgrades which include ADA compliance, renovation of the kitchen and bathroom, and installation of air conditioning for summer use of the structure. The study has been completed.

As of today, Michigan Hall, home of the CDC, has been thoroughly inspected and cost estimates for corrective action as well as upgrades have been submitted to the President for review. The President's Cabinet (or sub-group) will be assigned to review the cost estimates and determine what steps can be taken. They will also provide a timeline for actions.