

Minutes of University Wide HLC Meeting, May 14, 2009

- The meeting was called to order by Eric Martin at 10:00 a.m.
- Co-Chairs Eric Martin and Ann Vendrely introduced themselves to the 54 faculty and staff in attendance.
- Martin recognized the important work of co-chairs – asked those in attendance to stand and be recognized. He also gave kudos to two of the writing team – Tom Houlihan and Bill Wilkinson
- Martin then gave an overview of the process. Began 15 months ago formal meetings, steering committee formed – executive committee 75-80 people involved in process – strength is that the process has been very inclusive – site visit scheduled at website – November 16, 17 & 18, 2009.
- The composition of the visiting team has shifted – HLC tries to match evaluators with a team that can quickly assess the institution within the three days they are physically here. The eight person team will look at the institution from top to bottom. They will see the self study by September. It is important that as the writing team works on the self study they get feedback from the GSU community.
- Vendrely explained that the agenda's graphic illustrated the ebb and flow of the process. There are five sub-committees who have been working on compiling evidence that relate to their criteria. Writing group of four (Vendrely, Martin, Houlihan and Wilkinson) have been working on a narrative that matches evidence. Writing team then sends to the subcommittee for review– the draft posted to the HLC website – planned to use a blog there – encountering a few problems with that – email any comment, activities, program, anything that you see is missing. There will be many more revisions – keep sending your comments. Very collaborative process – happy with the constructive feedback.
- Martin noted that five criteria drive the process – don't get to freelance. Used the analogy that Houlihan and Wilkinson were "snowplow drivers"- they have been given a mountain of evidence and have been able to sift through the information and written a very comprehensive narrative.
- The university community has seen the introductory chapter and chapter one – the chapters align with the numbered criteria. Chapter two is now with that subcommittee – three is being skipped right now – student learning outcomes is a struggle for us as it is for many institutions
- Sherilyn Poole, David Curtis and Linda Samson are all trained evaluators
- Chapters will not include program specific information, rather broad overviews and links to evidence to program reviews, links to accreditations, employment data
- Employment data – do we have good data? No. Difficult to maintain that – what we're doing to make that better. The data base of our alumni – there is a lot happening to address that issue common across the country – the survey that Linda Buyer is compiling shows that we are trying to do something to remedy that
- GSU is unique in that the student population is a working one (adult population)– in that respect we are different from other universities

- The summaries all end in strengths and challenges – they don't want to end on continuing institutional actions – an honest accounting
- Visiting teams appreciate it if an institution is candid – the more trust that is engendered with the site team the better the outcome – be candid – show the problems – develop strategies to correct
- The self study has to capture a lot of changes in the ten years it covers – all chapters are subject to revision – we may be shifting information from one to another
- Co-chairs need to continue to collect evidence and put into the gsu vault –will send to an outside consultant from off campus to give feedback
- Read the drafts and give us feedback – get familiar with the mission statement – will have another meeting or two in the fall
- Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.