WASC Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation

Academic Programs & Planning
December 3, 2018
Introduction

- The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) is Cal Poly’s regional accreditor.

- Universities must be accredited to be eligible for federal funding including financial aid.

- Our accreditation was last re-affirmed in Spring 2012 for the longest possible period of ten years.

- The WASC commission encouraged us to stay focused on issues of diversity and the assessment of student learning; the commission requested an interim report.
## Our Ten Year Review Cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2012</td>
<td>End of previous cycle based on WASC Commission action</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2015</td>
<td>Submission of interim report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td>Mid-cycle review</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring 2019</strong></td>
<td>Submission of proposal for next self-study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2022</td>
<td>Accreditation visit</td>
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Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation (TPR)

- Cal Poly’s last self-study, Our Polytechnic Identity, explored three themes: “Learn by Doing,” “The Teacher-Scholar Model,” and “Integration and Student Learning.”

- The themes resulted in a number of action items, many of which have been achieved, and key policies approved by the Academic Senate; our identity as a comprehensive polytechnic was also significantly affirmed.

- WASC has developed a new, more streamlined approach to thematic reviews and approved a select group of high-performing schools to participate; Cal Poly is one of them.
Institutional Report

• Four of nine components, 40-60 pages:
  
  • Introduction (C1): Institutional Context, Response to Previous Commission Actions
  
  • Compliance (C2): Review under WSCUC* Standards and Compliance with Federal Requirements, Inventory of Educational Effectiveness Indicators
  
  • Institution-specific theme(s) (C8)
  
  • Conclusion (C9): Reflection and Plans for Improvement

*WASC Senior College and University Commission
TPR Process and Purpose

- The themes should establish a framework for connecting each institution’s context and priorities with the WASC Core Commitments, Standards of Accreditation, and Criteria for Review (CFR).

- In proposing themes, institutions are encouraged to be creative, build on processes already in place, and focus on a limited number of key issues that can be addressed in depth.

- The intent is to promote significant institutional engagement and improvement on important issues.
Submission of Themes

• Institutions approved to pursue the TPR process must submit their proposed theme(s) for review.

• The submission should contain an executive summary, institutional overview, process for development of themes, description of each theme, timeline for each theme, and statement of resources needed.

• The total submission should be 5-7 pages.

• The submission is due April 1, 2019.

• The self-study will probably be due in Winter 2022.
Examples of Relevant Themes

- Use of data and evidence for decision-making
- Strategic planning
- Revising general education or the core curriculum
- Enhancing writing across the curriculum
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Improving institutional effectiveness and data systems
- Integrating planning, program review and budgeting
Process Going Forward

- Making presentations to key campus stakeholders including brief survey
- Forming leadership group representing Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and OUDI
- Forming steering committee representing all campus stakeholders
- Proposing themes to President’s cabinet
- Developing submission beginning January 1
Questions? Comments? Ideas about themes?