



**Minutes
NCA Criterion 4
Committee Meeting
April 19, 2006**

Members present: Wil Shynkaruk, Phil Baumann, Ok-Hee Lee, Rinita Dalan, Ted Gracyk, Barb Hoppe, Ed Choate, Nathan Wood, Becky Boyle Jones, and Sue Peterson.

- Minutes of March 29th were approved.
- The steering committee requests summer volunteers to read drafts of other portions of the self-study. Becky Boyle Jones will be available until the end of June.
- The Criterion Team does not regard our drafts as ready to share until after our next meeting (May 3).
- Criterion 4 findings of interest
 - The university does not have good processes for addressing weaknesses
 - The accreditation process encourages self-justification rather than self-study, and this problem is exaggerated when a school treats the self-study as an opportunity for PR.
 - Does it deflect focus to have marketing and PR people on the steering committee
 - There are concerns about the funding for graduate studies
 - There is broad support for the goals of the new liberal studies despite disagreement on implementation
 - Interesting facts about our liberal studies program
 - Average course enrollment by division varies greatly from a low of 14 to a high of 50 –our students are getting quite different experiences in the different liberal studies divisions
 - Tenured and tenure track faculty teach from 66% to over 80% of the liberal studies courses in five of the six divisions
 - MSUM students have had over 400 liberal studies courses to choose from over the past 5 years
 - These courses are spread roughly equally in divisions B (B1 & B2), C, E (E1 & E2) and F (F1 & F2) – averaging 75 courses per division. There is far less choice in Division A and far greater choice in Division D (D1 & D2)
 - Data on web pages need to be periodically updated (and more frequently)
 - Information needs to be more easily accessible
 - Information listed on our report is inconsistent in regard to level of assessment among departments.

- We found unexpected difficulties in locating policies covering academic honesty and ethical responsibilities, and difficulty in locating procedures for handling infractions.
- We were disappointed by the level of faculty compliance with the syllabus policy.

Report on Focus Group Feedback

- We discussed audience response to each of the Core Components of Criteria

Meeting ended at 5:00

Submitted by Barbara Hoppe