

Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Step 3: Educational Effectiveness Review

May 8 2014

Agenda

- Quick Review of Accreditation
- Reaffirmation Process and Themes
- Report Components
 - Highlights of each Section
- Next Steps

Accreditation: What is it?

- Quality Assurance
- Standards of Quality Assurance
- Being acknowledged internationally as a quality institution

The Accreditation Process is designed to:

- Build a culture of evidence-based decision making
- Promote a commitment to institutional improvement
- Validate institutional integrity

Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Three-Step Process (Remember. This is the last time that WASC will utilize a three-step process.)

- Institutional Proposal (2010)
- Capacity and Preparatory Review - CPR (2011/2012)
- Educational Effectiveness Review - EER
 - **Report: June 2014**
 - **Site Visit: September 15-19, 2014**

Themes (determined by AUA and approved by WASC):

- Theme 1: Institutionalizing the Assessment of Student Learning
- Theme 2: Cultivating a Community of Scholars

Goals of Reaffirmation Process

- Recalibration of AUA's institutional mission and goals
- Focus on **student learning across the institution** and the development of more diverse and effective methods of assessment
- **Alignment of research and scholarship** with teaching at a graduate institution focused on impacting the development of a nation

EER Report: 7 Components (as required)

1. Description of the EER Approach
2. Significant Engagement and Analysis of Educational Effectiveness
3. An Analysis of the Effectiveness of the Program Review Process
4. Further Developments of Student Success Efforts
5. An Updated Data Portfolio
6. An Integrative Component
7. Response to the CPR Recommendations

Description of the EER Approach

- **History** of the Process
- **Working Groups**

Significant Engagement and Analysis of Educational Effectiveness

Theme 1 – Institutionalizing Student Learning Assessment

- **New Guidelines for the Review of Academic Programs**
- New Student Learning Assessment Manual – *Feedback received. Pending finalization.*
- Student Learning Assessment Plans
- Student Learning Assessment Reports online
- Curricular Maps – Updated and Accessible Online
- **University-wide SLOs** – alignment with mission
- Undergraduate Assoc. Dean for **General Education**, Gen. Ed. Committee
- More **resources on www.aua.am** – rubrics, sharing institutional knowledge
- **Trainings/Workshops**
- Improvements and Expansion of Ongoing University Evaluations and Surveys
- University Management System, Course Management System

Significant Engagement and Analysis of Educational Effectiveness – cont'd

Theme 2 – Cultivating a Community of Scholars

- Multiyear Contracts
- **New Definition of Scholarship** – Implementation
- Research
- Promotions
- Awards (if any)
- **Workload policy**
- Orientation
- Community Meetings, Retreats, Coordination Meetings
- E-bulletin, website upgrade, social media
- Thinking about Thinking Lecture Initiative
- Co-curricular activities
- **The changing profile of AUA's Community of Scholars**

An Analysis of the Effectiveness of the Program Review Process

- **History** of Program Review at AUA
 - Three Cycles - 2006, 2008-12, 2012-present
- Self-Study **Guidelines Evolution/Development**
- Preparedness/**Support** for Self-Study
 - Faculty Development - Workshops in SLA – description/impact
 - Institutional Support
 - Policies & Processes – New Syllabus Template, SLAP Calendar, Consultations
- **Application**
 - Cycle 2 - Post-Accreditation – full cycle of instructional programs
 - Cycle 3 – 2012-2020 – 2 rounds
- **Case Studies** in Closing the Loop
- **Continuing Efforts** at Integration of Student Learning Assessment
 - More frequent SLA during U-grad ramp up – new terrain for AUA
 - Academic Support Units
 - Annual Student Learning Assessment

Further Developments of Student Success Efforts

- Defining Student Success and Challenges
- Institutional Research Office (IRO)
- **Graduation and Retention Rates**
- Undergraduate Program
- Undergraduate **Student Support Services**
- Office of Alumni Relations and Career Development (ARCDO)
- Further Education and Life-long Learning
- **Faculty Professional Development**
- **Integration of SLOs, CLOs into Syllabus template**

Updated Data Portfolio – as required

- Student Enrollment
- Graduation and Retention Rates
- Faculty Statistics

An Integrative Component

- **Theme 1:** Institutionalizing the Assessment of Student Learning
 - Theme 1 Objective 1: Student Learning Committee Institutionalize
 - Theme 1 Objective 2: Student Learning Assessment Integrated into teaching
 - Theme 1 Objective 3: Student Learning Assessment basis for improvement
- **Theme 2:** Cultivating a Community of Scholars
 - Theme 2 Objective 1: Consensus on research and scholarship at AUA
 - Theme 2 Objective 2: New Standards Applied for Faculty Evaluation
 - Theme 2 Objective 3: More faculty and student research collaboration
 - Theme 2 Objective 4: More core and full-time faculty
- Challenges and Opportunities Ahead
 - Overview
 - **Challenges**
 - **Looking Forward**
- **2013 Handbook** – in particular
 - Including SLOs on the report
 - Retention and Graduation Rates / Time to degree
 - Core Competencies – ugrad

Response to the CPR Recommendations

As discussed at the February 2014 University-wide EER Meeting

1. Refining **assessment practices and institutionalizing** staffing and resources for educational effectiveness
2. Implementing the new **undergraduate** degree programs
3. Promoting **student success**
4. Reviewing **academic support** and **student service programs**
5. Strengthening the institution's **financial position and capacity**
6. Ensuring consistency of **credit hour** information

Next Steps

Milestones follow-up - Ongoing

Feedback due: May 23

Report due: June 2014

Site Visit: September 15-19, 2014

Commission Review: February 18-19, 2015

For additional information including WASC's Handbook of Accreditation, previously submitted reports and resources:

<http://aua.am/accreditation-affiliations/>