

WASC COMMENTS ON PLANNING AT PLNC

Dwayne Little report to PBC on 1/28/97

While the WASC planning focus is on Standard 2 (Institutional Purposes, Planning, and Effectiveness), comments and suggestions are interspersed throughout the 82-page report of the visiting team. Most comments regarding the planning process were positive, but there were pointed suggestions for improvement. I will list what I believe to be its major comments below.

- 1) "Clear institutional commitment to planning was evident." (P.15)
- 2) "While there is no WASC accreditation requirement for a single institutional plan, evidence of PLNC planning documents of any kind--the documented outcomes of the planning processes--remain difficult to identify.... (p. 17) Demonstration is minimal with regard to of (*sic*) how these data, goals, and committee processes have resulted in or contributed to systematic, coherent institutional planning, budget decisions, priorities, and assessment of institutional effectiveness. The various efforts seem fragmented and disjointed. What is the interpretation of these data? What do all these data mean for the College? What is its vision for the next 5 years? (p. 17-18)
- 3) "The College should focus its efforts on integrating the planning processes and developing a plan--a communication tool to share the direction and strategies of the College among members of the community and with the external community." (p.20, also 21)
- 4) "It is recommended that the College develop and implement a process to create an academic plan that may guide individual department planning in the academic areas." (p. 20) Under this umbrella the team also calls for plans for the library, media services, and information services. (p. 44, 64) Further, "it is recommended strongly that the College approach academic program planning and assessment with greater vision and coherency." (p. 40)
- 5) "Administration and faculty appear to be making positive gains through the Planning and Budgeting Committee in linking the plans, Goals 2000 and budgets of the College to ensure that visions become real outcomes. The Planning and Budgeting Committee best exemplifies a model of a truly collaborative community.
- 6) "Faculty involvement at all levels of decision-making and planning should be encouraged for collaborative and collegial consensus building within an administrative structure that is process and goal oriented.
- 7) "With leadership of the Academic Vice President working in collaboration with deans, departmental chairs and faculty, academic planning provides a critically important linkage to institutional planning and to ensuring the centrality and quality of the College's instructional programs. Planning...is to be followed by assessment measures that require an analytical and reflective response to the collected data. It was not apparent to the team that this critical last step has been accomplished in a comprehensive, integrated manner." (p.42)
- 8) "The accomplishment of an aggressive plan of building and renovation over the last decade has resulted in an attractive, functional campus that is clean and well landscaped." (p. 72)