

GUSTAVUS

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

26 February 2003

To: Gustavus Community
From: Eric Eliason, Self-Study Coordinator for 2002-2003 North Central Association Comprehensive Evaluation.
Re: Upcoming Comprehensive Evaluation

On March 24th, 25th, and 26th, 2003, a team of five Consultant-Evaluators from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools will be on campus as part of the college's comprehensive evaluation. This evaluation is an ordinary part of the college's affiliation with the North Central Association. The most recent comprehensive evaluation took place in 1992-1993 and resulted a ten-year continuation of the college's accreditation.

The head of the visiting team will be Dr. George Drake, Professor of History at Grinnell College. Other members will be Dr. Richard Warch, President of Lawrence University; Dr. Janet McNew, Provost and Dean of Faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University; Dr. Larry Stimpert, John T. and Catherine M. MacArthur Professor of Economics at Colorado College; and Ms. Christopher LeBeau, Business Reference Librarian at the University of Missouri, Kansas City.

The team will be on campus to evaluate how well the college satisfies the criteria required for accreditation with the North Central Association. In order for a college to be accredited with the North Central Association, it must

1. Have clear and publicly stated purposes consistent with its mission and appropriate to an institution of higher education.
2. Have effectively organized the human, financial, and physical resources necessary to accomplish its purposes.
3. Accomplish its educational and other purposes.
4. Be able to continue to accomplish its purposes and strengthen its educational effectiveness.
5. Demonstrate integrity in its practices and relationships.

The college has made the case that it satisfies these criteria in a self-study that has been sent to the consultant-evaluators for their review. The self-study was prepared over the past two years through the efforts of a committee of faculty and administrators. Many individuals and offices provided valuable information for the document and commented on drafts. That self-study is available to the whole Gustavus community via a link on the President's page. A printed copy is on reserve in the library and will be sent to department chairs and a variety of administrators who can share it with others in their areas.

While the visiting team is on campus, they will take into account the self-study, other information that will be available to them in a document room, and information gathered in interviews and meetings during their visit. A schedule for these meetings will be distributed before the team arrives, though some may be scheduled on-the-fly during the visit. It is important that community members make a good showing at the appropriate meetings.

Over the next weeks, I will be distributing summaries of some key points from the self-study. It will show the college in a good light if the visiting team finds a community well-informed on both the criteria for accreditation and the ways in which the college meets those criteria.

I hope you will read these summaries as they appear and follow up any topics that interest you in the full self-study. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks!

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