

Academic Strategic Planning Steering Committee (ASP) and Accreditation Steering Committee (ASC)

MAY 1, 2008

UPDATE



The University of
Montana

An Equal Opportunity Employer

ASP Steering Committee

CAROL BREWER, CHAIR

College of Arts and Sciences

Carol.Brewer@umontana.edu

BLAKELY BROWN

Health and Human Performance

PERRY BROWN

College of Forestry and Conservation

RAY CARLISLE

TRIO Student Support

SARAH CULLISON

Graduate Student

REED HUMPHREY

Physical Therapy

Stephen Kalm

Music

Peggy Kuhr

School of Journalism

Mark Medvetz

College of Technology

Jakki Mohr

Management

Sean Morrison

Undergraduate Student

Bill Muse

Planning, Budget and Analysis

Charlie Potter

Mansfield Library

Andrew Ware

Physics and Astronomy

VIEW FROM MAIN HALL

We are embarking upon two critically important efforts that need to be closely linked to one another. Our accreditation by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities will culminate with a team visit in April of 2010, and Academic Strategic Planning will occur in parallel over the next 15 months. We must approach this work with the goal of emerging as an even stronger University of Montana. By setting a clear academic agenda and by demonstrating our effectiveness through the accreditation process, we will be a leader in the nation's higher education system. The chairs of the respective steering committees, Jim Hirstein (Accreditation) and Carol Brewer (Academic Strategic Planning), will stay in close communication so that the two efforts reinforce one another. This joint newsletter is designed to keep the campus community informed of progress and additional information can be found through links on the Academic Affairs web site. Many people have volunteered to be involved in either Accreditation or Strategic Planning, and I want to express my appreciation for their interest, assuring everyone that there will be plenty to do over the next two years. Both Accreditation and Strategic Planning will require many sub-groups, which will be defined over the summer months. In addition, input from the campus will be sought at many points along the way. Let me thank those individuals who are members of the steering committees as well as Jim and Carol for their leadership.

-- Royce Engstrom, Provost --

STRATEGIC PLANNING ROAD MAP

Beginning this spring semester, we have embarked on a major academic strategic planning effort that will be completed and published by summer of 2009. This is an ambitious schedule that aligns with the timeline for completing UM's self study for the purpose of the accreditation review. The goal of this process is to develop an Academic Strategic Plan (ASP) that will serve as a decision making guide over the next five years. A good ASP will focus resources and energy on key issues and help us enhance the effectiveness of our core mission.

Over the next 12 – 14 months, faculty, staff and students will be called on to become involved in the ASP process. Early on, the ASP Steering Committee will be asking for you to think about where we, as an academic community, want to be in the next 5 to 10 years. We will need to think about the internal and external forces that will influence academic affairs over this time period. And we will need to clearly articulate our strengths and where we have opportunities to enhance and grow our programs to better prepare UM students for careers in the 21st century.

Over the summer the ASP Steering Committee will complete an environmental scan to develop the background and context for the ASP, and identify strategic issues to for the UM academic community to discuss and prioritize during the Fall 2008 semester. We also plan to launch a website to facilitate communication and feedback with the committee and the process. We hope you will seize the opportunity to participate early and often over the coming year. Please contact me if you would like to participate.

-- Carol Brewer, ASP Chair --

ACCREDITATION STEERING COMMITTEE

JIM HIRSTEIN, CHAIR

Professor, Mathematical Sciences
HirsteinJ@mso.umt.edu

BONNIE ALLEN

Dean, Mansfield Library

TERESA BRANCH

Vice President, Student Affairs

CAROL BREWER

**Associate Dean, College of Arts &
Sciences**

JIM BURCHFIELD

**Associate Dean, College of
Forestry & Conservation**

BOB DURINGER

**Vice President, Administration
& Finance**

BETSY HAWKINS

Director, Human Resources

LOU HAYES

Professor, Political Science

SHELLY HINIKER

Staff Senate Representative

DUSTIN LEFRIDGE

Student Representative

BILL MUSE

**Associate Vice President,
Planning, Budget, & Analysis**

EIJIRO UCHIMOTO

Professor, Physics & Astronomy

ARLENE WALKER-ANDREWS

Associate Provost

ACCREDITATION PLANNING UNDERWAY

The University of Montana is scheduled to undergo a ten-year accreditation review. A team will visit our campus on April 12-14, 2010. From now until then, we will conduct a self-study that covers essentially every aspect of the university.

Here is the mission statement of the Commission: "The mission of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) is to assure educational quality, enhance institutional effectiveness, and foster continuous improvement of colleges and universities in the Northwest region through analytical institutional self-assessment and critical peer review based upon evaluation criteria that are objectively and equitable applied to institutions with diverse missions, characteristics, and cultures."

And the following is from the context section of the Commission's Handbook: "Accreditation by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities means that an institution's own goals are soundly conceived, that its educational programs have been intelligently devised, that its purposes are being accomplished, and that the institution is so organized, staffed, and supported to merit confidence in the quality and effectiveness of the institution in achieving its mission."

This will be a massive effort that will require the participation of every sector of the university. I encourage you to be involved. There will be interim reports, meetings, newsletters, and committee requests for assistance. Please keep informed and help us when we ask for it, and contact me if you have questions.

-- Jim Hirstein, ASC Chair --

ON THE HORIZON

ASP PLANNING CALENDAR

- **Summer 2008** – Complete environmental scan; develop web site
- **Fall 2008** – Work with UM community to identify strategic issues and set goals for the ASP
- **Winter 2008 and Intersession** – Identify timeline for implementing ASP
- **Spring 2009** – Campus review of plan
- **Summer 2009** – Publish plan and begin implementation

ASC PLANNING CALENDAR

- **Academic Year 2008-2009** – Data collection, department drafts
- **Summer 2009** – Rough draft of accreditation review
- **December 2009** – Complete accreditation review
- **April 2010** – Accreditation team campus visit