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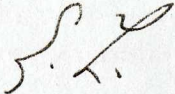


Edwardsville Bulletin

To the Faculty, Staff and Students of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

October 14, 1983

Vol. 14, No. 14

MEMO TO: The University Community
FROM: Earl Lazerson 
SUBJECT: University Self-Study, 1983-86

This fall, the University begins a comprehensive self-study. The regular, once-a-decade review of the University's accreditation status by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, scheduled for April 1986, provides the primary impetus for this process. Hence, its first priority is to develop a report which effectively states the University's case for continued accreditation. I have appointed Paul Gaston as Coordinator of the Self-Study, and I have approved the plan which he has developed. In its schedule, its structure, and its process, it embodies current requirements and recommendations of the NCA. At the same time, it reflects the assessment needs particular to this University. Copies of this plan will soon be widely available. In the meantime, a review copy will be available in Lovejoy Library to all members of the University community.

If the self-study represents our response to an obligation, however, it represents an opportunity as well. By conducting a review which illuminates our strengths, defines our problems, and yields recommendations for action, we can take full advantage of this opportunity. The plan we shall follow provides for careful self-assessment at many levels, for thorough review of findings and recommendations, for collegial discussion of points requiring emphasis, and for final comprehensive and coherent presentation. Where possible, the self-study will utilize information generated by the University's established evaluative procedures. Where feasible, the recommendations it generates will receive the immediate attention of appropriate constituencies and units.

Within the next several weeks, I will request members of the University community to serve as chairpersons for Contributing Committees. These chairpersons will constitute the Self-Study Steering Committee.

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Once these chairpersons have accepted appointment, they will contact other members of the University community to enlist their services on the respective Contributing Committees: (1) Mission and Purposes, (2) Governance, Organization and Administration, (3) Financial Resources, (4) Faculty, (5) Learning Resources, (6) Students, (7) Curriculum, (8) Educational Activities, (9) Graduate Programs and Research, (10) Evaluation Principles, and (11) Planning.

Finally, in January, others will join department and school committees and study seminars to develop preliminary reports focused on units and issues.

Thus, the final report, which must embody our best judgments, will rest on the contributions of many. That is how it should be. Those who participate in this undertaking will have the opportunity to make an important contribution to the University and its future.