

Open Pathway Re-accreditation Planning

Report on the Activities of the Accreditation Advisory Committee

January 10, 2012

1. Committee Members

Ali Cinar, <i>Graduate College</i>	Anijo Mathew, <i>Institute of Design</i>
Anthony D'Amato, <i>Office of the General Counsel</i>	Scott Morris, <i>College of Psychology</i>
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Siva Balasubramanian, <i>Faculty Chair, Stuart School</i>	Margaret Stewart, <i>Chicago Kent College of Law</i>
Matt Bauer, <i>College of Science & Letters</i>	George Schipporeit, <i>College of Architecture</i>
Russell Betts, <i>College of Science & Letters</i>	Kristin Standaert, <i>Galvin Library</i>
Carol Emmons, <i>Staff Chair, Institutional Information</i>	Ophir Trigalo, <i>Office of Technology Services</i>
Mike Gosz, <i>Undergraduate Affairs</i>	Ray Trygstad, <i>School of Applied Technology</i>
John Kallend, <i>Armour College of Engineering</i>	David Ulaszek, <i>Office of Finance</i>
Noreen Kozak, <i>Provost's Office</i>	Sue Weiss, <i>Stuart School of Business</i>

2. Activities and Accomplishments to Date

- a. Accreditation Advisory Committee meets monthly.
- b. Committee has created a site using Google Apps to facilitate information sharing among members.
- c. Committee has created a channel within myIIT to share information with the IIT community.
- d. We have been tracking the development of the revised HLC accreditation criteria.
- e. We have discussed information and materials related to student learning assessment.
- f. We have designed a survey to collect information about current assessment practices at academic departments.
- g. We have proposed a procedure to select a Quality Improvement Initiative for IIT's next re-accreditation review.

3. Planned Activities

- a. Student Learning Assessment
 - i. *Jan/Feb 2012*: Administer Current Assessment Practices Survey to academic department Chairs.
- b. Quality Improvement Initiative
 - i. *Jan/Feb 2012*: Finalize process for selecting a quality improvement initiative.
 - ii. *Feb-April 2012*: Conduct process for selecting a quality improvement initiative
 - iii. *May 2012*: Quality Improvement Initiative selected.
 - iv. *September 2012*: Submit Quality Improvement Initiative proposal to the HLC

Proposed Process for Selecting a Quality Improvement Initiative

The following is a proposed process agreed upon by the members of the Accreditation Advisory Committee. The Committee is now seeking input from the Deans to finalize this process.

Steps	Description
Step 1: Gather ideas	The Committee believes that students, faculty and staff should all be involved in this effort. The Committee proposes that these stakeholders be invited to submit ideas via an online form. The invitation to submit an idea will refer to the Strategic Plan and the HLC 2006 Site Visit report (both available online) as sources of inspiration for ideas to improve IIT.
Step 2: Review and Refine Ideas	The Accreditation Advisory Committee will review the ideas and select 3-5 for further development. Subcommittees will be formed to work with the submitters to develop a more detailed proposal on each of the 3-5 ideas for presentation to the Deans.
Step 3: Invite proposals	The Deans will review the 3-5 proposals and recommend two for consideration by the President and Provost.
Step 4: Review proposals and select initiative(s)	The President and Provost will select the winning proposal(s).

Attachment A

Invitation to Submit an Idea for a Quality Improvement Initiative

As part of IIT's preparations for the reaffirmation of our accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association, the Accreditation Advisory Committee is inviting all members of the IIT community, including students, faculty, and staff, to submit ideas for a Quality Improvement Initiative. This initiative will be a central component of IIT's next re-accreditation review in 2016.

Since IIT's last accreditation site visit in 2006, the HLC has revised both the criteria and the process for re-accreditation. Although continuous quality improvement has always been part of the re-accreditation process, the new process, called Open Pathways, increases the emphasis on continuous quality improvement by requiring that each institution seeking re-accreditation propose and conduct a Quality Improvement Initiative as part of the re-accreditation process. Our students, faculty and staff are all stakeholders in the future of IIT. We therefore invite your ideas for a quality improvement initiative that will strengthen IIT's future in an important way.

The next page contains a form to use to present your idea for a quality improvement initiative. Before submitting an idea, we suggest that you review both the HLC's recommendations from our last re-affirmation in 2006 ([LINK](#)) and IIT's Strategic Plan ([LINK](#)). Ideas will be evaluated by the Deans using the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Expected impact on student outcomes (such as learning, graduating, finding satisfying employment after graduation, becoming a lifelong learner).
2. Breadth of impact, i.e., who will be affected by the proposed initiative (e.g., undergraduate students, graduate students).
3. Extent to which the initiative addresses either an HLC recommendation or helps IIT to achieve one or more of its strategic goals.
4. Overall cost.
5. Project timeline.
6. Measurability of success.
7. Probability of success.

Attachment B
Quality Improvement Initiative Idea Submission Form

Present your idea for a quality improvement initiative that IIT should undertake (as part of the Open Pathway process to reaffirm accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association) by answering each of the questions below.

1. Briefly state your idea for a quality improvement initiative.

2. Describe how this initiative is expected to affect student outcomes (such as learning, graduation, career placement, becoming a lifelong learner)?

3. Explain why it is important that IIT improve in the way described in #2 above.

4. Explain how this initiative will address either an HLC recommendation from their last site visit in 2006, and/or help IIT to achieve one or more of its strategic goals.

5. How would we measure the success of this initiative?

6. Please give us your name and email address.

Attachment C

Proposal Outline

1. Statement of the problem

In 500 words or less, describe the problem or opportunity that the proposed initiative is designed to address. Provide objective, quantitative information whenever possible. Briefly describe the proposed quality improvement initiative and explain how it will address this problem.

2. Description of the proposed Quality Improvement Initiative

Describe the proposed quality improvement initiative in depth. Include detailed descriptions of each of the following:

- The goals or objectives of the initiative.
- Each activity that will be conducted as part of the proposed initiative.
- The relevance of each activity to the goals of the initiative.
- The relationship of each activity to the other activities (i.e., which activities must be completed, or at least started, before other activities can be started)?

3. Evaluation

Discuss how and when the project will be evaluated, including the following:

- Quality assurance steps that will occur during the project.
- Evaluation methods, including key metrics that can be used while the project is in progress to help keep the project on track.
- Evaluation methods, including key metrics that can be used after the project is complete to gauge its impact.

4. Project Plan

Describe how the project might be conducted. Address each of the following in your description:

- Timeline, including key milestones
- Skills, staff and other resources needed
- Estimated cost
- Possible funding mechanisms
- Proposed management plan (Who is in charge? Who will do what? What are the reporting relationships? How will progress be tracked? How will problems or set-backs be addressed?)

- Potential risks and impediments, and how each of these might be mitigated.