

**Senate Proposal for Change:  
Accreditation Steering Committee Name and Function Change**

**1) Identify the Issue: (novel situation, challenge, problem, etc.)**

The Accreditation Steering Committee (ASC) recommends changing its name and function to the Accreditation and Institutional Quality Committee (AIQ)—see *attached most recent ASC charge and proposed AIQ charge*.

**2) Provide underlying Rationale for addressing the issue.**

- The annual review of the ASC charge revealed that the committee's scope has been substantially narrowed due to the successful college accreditation work.
- During the Self Evaluation process the committee functioned as a problem-solving group that helped those working on the Standards to resolve issues or problems as they arose rather than simply acknowledging and documenting them. This new approach helped to reduce the Planning Agendas from 54 in 2006 to 5 Actionable Improvement Plans (new ACCJC terminology) in 2012.
- Over the course of guiding the process of researching and preparing the Self Evaluation and Follow-Up Reports and in attempting to monitor work on the Actionable Improvement Plans (AIPs), the committee recognized that gaps existed in the college committee structure: we could not identify which group or entity focused on institutional effectiveness. For example, ACCJC has rubrics to measure three indicators of institutional effectiveness: planning, program review, and student learning outcomes. While College Council focuses on planning and the Program Review and Assessment Committee exist, no committee looks at the whole and makes sure systematic evaluation of all processes occurs.
- The ASC co-chairs discussed the revised and reduced charge with the college president, who came to a special ASC meeting to discuss possible roles for the committee. ASC examined the issue further and decided to move forward and develop a new charge. ASC led a discussion at a Student Success Stewardship Team meeting, the faculty co-chair reported on the process to Academic Senate and College Council, and ASC invited a larger group to a work session on February 28 to discuss a draft of the charge and develop committee membership. At its March 11 meeting ASC finalized the charge based on all the feedback it had received. See attached most recently revised ASC charge and proposed AIQ charge.
- This proposal for change is being presented to Academic Senate on March 19 and to College Council on March 21 for review.

**3) Include Background and Institutional History (if any).**

2014-15 is the fourth year of the Accreditation Steering Committee's existence. The committee was originally envisioned to weave accreditation into the fabric of daily life of the college instead of experiencing accreditation as an event that occurred every six years to meet the Standards. The college decided to embrace the fundamental purpose of the Standards:

The primary purpose of an ACCJC-accredited institution is to foster learning in its students. An effective institution ensures that its resources and processes support

student learning, continuously assesses that learning, and pursues institutional excellence and improvement. An effective institution maintains an ongoing, self-reflective dialogue about its quality and improvement."

*Introduction to the Accreditation Standards.*

ASC developed its own philosophy statement, approved by Academic Senate and College Council.

**4) Anticipate Opposition: (What will opponents say/want/think/do?)**

*Why do we need another or different committee?*

**Response:**

The change has two main strengths:

1. It fills a gap in the college committee structure by focusing on institutional effectiveness.
2. It takes advantage of the skills of an active and problem-solving oriented committee.

*What is this committee's relationship to College Council?*

**Response:**

- ASC reviewed the new College Council charge as it developed its proposal.
- AIQ would report to both Academic Senate and College Council. Both AIQ co-chairs would be voting members of College Council.
- College Council charge: "College Council is a collegial, consultative, and oversight body designed to serve the good of the College. The group facilitates timely, factual, and clear communication between constituents and the President. It provides recommendations to the President on collegewide matters. The Council oversees implementation of the Strategic Plan and ensures the institution uses ongoing and systematic planning and evaluation to refine its key processes and improve student learning."

**5) Articulate possible Solution(s), highlighting support for the most desirable outcome.**

Academic Senate and College Council will review the proposal, provide feedback, and approve it. Based on the feedback, additional revisions may come for approval.

**Submitted by Kate Pluta, ASC faculty co-chair, on behalf of ASC**

**March 19, 2014**