

ACADEMIC QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

16 OCTOBER, 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UIU'S SYSTEMS PORTFOLIO 2

Use hyperlinks to for instant access to documents.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Action projects parallel and enhance strategic plan initiatives.**
- **Information on all AQIP institutions' action projects is available on AQIP's [website](#).**
- **Please contact Deena Serra at x5385 or send an [email](#) if you have any questions or would like more information.**

Annual updates must be submitted to AQIP by September 14. AQIP reviewers have submitted electronic feedback on two of three projects.

Although reviewer's comments for the Jenzabar Internet Campus Solutions (JICS) action project are not yet available, you may read the latest [annual update](#). JICS is fully embedded and the project ready to retire, making room for a new action project to be declared by March.

[Reviewer's feedback](#) on the second

annual update for the "Aligning Majors with the University's Strategic Plan" is sprinkled with "strong, solid, successful." The initial action project team of Linda Haines, Lynn Isvik, and Steve Smith have been focusing on aligning the business major. According to Haines, "Mari Molseed and I will form the core of the group to start the process of alignment in the liberal arts division."

Equally positive comments can be found in the [reviewer's feedback](#) on the second update for "Enhancing

Academic Support Systems." This AQIP team is designing a comprehensive academic support system for all UIU students. Members include Karla Gavin, Kathy Wenthold, Steve Stein, Caroline Ledebauer, Hope Trainor, Laurie Kirkpatrick, Chris Sanders, Tracy Griffith, Cheryl Northrop, Tricia Petsche, and co-sponsors Louise Scott and Becky Wadian.

Watch for updates as these projects move forward, and take a moment to provide any of the team members feedback if you get a chance.

ENHANCED LEARNING AND SEAMLESS MOVEMENT: MEET THE ONLINE PLATFORM ACTION PROJECT AND ITS TEAM(S)

As declared on AQIP's web site, this project's goal is to "facilitate more effective student learning in the online environment . . . and move all university constituents to the new platform no later than Term I, 2009-2010." Here are the folks working on this [notable initiative](#):

<u>AQIP Team</u>	<u>Student Sub Team</u>	<u>Admission Sub Team</u>	<u>Faculty Sub Team</u>
Bill Duffy – Sponsor	Kathy Wenthold – Chair	Barb Schultz – Chair	Mari Molseed—Chair
Peg Chown – Chair	RyAnn Winings	Chris Sanders	Robin Byrne
Barb Schultz	Carol Katsumes	Tim Turnbull	Peg Chown
Fritz Oppenlander	Wendy Schutte	David Hannum	Nigel George
Robyn Byrne	Walter Bembry	Wendy Munger	John Craddock
Kathy Wenthold	Karla Gavin		Jim Skertich
Terry Smid	Jodi Hilleshiem	<u>IT Conversion Sub Team</u>	Graeme Armstrong
Mari Molseed	Seth Gage	Terry Smid-Chair	Steve Stein
Chris Sanders		Matt Cowley	
Shon Bruns		Robyn Byrne	
Joel Kunze		Shon Bruns	
		Laurie Wright	
		Mary Schultz	

DO YOU KNOW WHAT WE DID LAST SUMMER?

A task force and nine writing teams created the "Systems Portfolio," which describes key fundamental institutional processes of the university.

Impressive final product Comments from members of the Board of Trustees were highly positive, and ranged from the quality of the document to its execution: Assembling a team of over 30 people that completed the project in such a short period of time was truly impressive. Now for the rest of the story . . .

Much ado about diligence UIU's initial submission met AQIP's deadline, but was deemed lacking by HLC as to format, content, and completeness. Through consultation with HLC, a second set of deadlines was offered and accepted.

Dedication Dave Chown gathered a core team to set about the monumental task of determining an effective process for researching and writing a nearly 100 page document by the revised AQIP deadline of September 15. This team also wrote drafts of the overview and categories 1 and 5 for submission to HLC by July 31, for preliminary review. The group met weekly and oversaw the writing and compilation of the entire final document. The contributions of Scott Figdore, Linda Haines, Mari Molseed, Doug McReynolds, Nick Serra, Deena Serra, Terry Smid, and Holly Streeter cannot be understated.

Collaboration Staggered deadlines and writing teams were assigned to draft responses for each category:

- ↔ Overview: Haines and Streeter
- ↔ Cat 1: Figdore, McReynolds, Molseed
- ↔ Cat 2: Isvik, Kunze, McElvania
- ↔ Cat 3: Figdore, Molseed, Rettig, Morris
- ↔ Cat 4: Carolan, Gavin, Kirkpatrick, Wenthold
- ↔ Cat 5: Chown, Serra, Serra, Smid
- ↔ Cat 6: Aungst, Converse, Crooker, Sanders, Scott
- ↔ Cat 7: Aungst, Busta, Duffy, Sanders
- ↔ Cat 8: Chown, Figdore, Kehe
- ↔ Cat 9: Rettig, Wenthe, JWhite

Communication The core team studied each category draft for style, content, and contradiction. The final product, and hyperlinked supporting documentation, were uploaded to the

UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY



AQIP | Systems Portfolio 2009



web site and emailed to AQIP by Dr. Walker on September 14, 2009.

Observation This process of self-study identified a recurring theme of how to better close the feedback loop. You may be surprised how much you learn about UIU when you read the Systems Portfolio; [your comments](#) will be addressed.

Next Steps:

A Systems Appraisal of UIU's Systems Portfolio is expected to be completed within 12 weeks of the submission date. AQIP sends a detailed feedback report that UIU can use as it plots its future quality strategies.

A Quality Checkup Site Visit is a two-day visit by two evaluators. The visit affirms the accuracy of the Systems Portfolio, assures continuing organizational quality improvement commitment, confirms UIU's compliance with accreditation expectations, and updates the relationship between UIU and the Higher Learning Commission.