

Criterion 5 Committee Meeting Minutes

Criterion 5 – Third Meeting

April 7, 2022, 3:00pm-4:00pm

Tomlinson Library 331

Members Present: Nick Bardo, Ram Basnet, Robert Cackler, Andrew Connolly, Bryan Davis, Lucy Graham, Christi Hein, Eliot Jennings, Deborah Kennard, Heather McKim, Sean Phelps, John Reece, Adam Rosenbaum, Kristin Santos, Tracie Seurer, Steve Werman

1. Committee Chair Rosenbaum called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.
2. Rosenbaum distributed a hand-out summarizing earlier discussions on the sub-components of 5.A.1, 5.A.2, 5.A.3, 5.B.1, and 5.B.2 before initiating a brief round of (re)introductions.
3. The committee members brainstormed pieces of evidence for Criterion 5.B.3: “The institution has a well-developed process in place for budgeting and for monitoring its finances.”
 - Documentation of the annual process and procedures of the Budget Office
 - Financial statements and results of regular financial audits
 - Reports on bond ratings
 - Presidential "State of the Institution" address focusing on financial data
 - Fiscal rules govern our procedures, contracting, and payroll requirements. These rules do not change often, and any changes would require Board approval. These should be available on the website.
 - Board approval of budget in meeting minutes
 - Banner protects institution with non-sufficient fund checks.
 - Department Heads are responsible for monitoring expenses and communicating with the CFO, who reviews budget allotments and considers requests for additional funds.
 - Additional resources: VP of Finance and the Financial Aid office could shed light on where the money goes and what we do with it.
4. The committee members brainstormed pieces of evidence for Criterion 5.B.4: “The institution’s fiscal allocations ensure that its educational purposes are achieved.”
 - Funds available for faculty sabbaticals, professional development, and travel
 - Everyone who oversees a budget needs to map those with strategic plan goals.
 - Formal library assessments for new courses determine if the library has the resources that support specific parts of the undergraduate curriculum. If not, staff request additional funding.
 - Position requests need to be justified by being linked to educational goals.
 - Budget for new programs must also be linked to educational goals
 - Allocations need to be adjusted as part of the monitoring; things need to change as part of the budget cycle.
 - Spending to increase the number of support staff for students is justified in terms of educational purposes.

- The Office of Student Success and Engagement was created to help students develop key skills and learn to utilize available resources.
 - IPEDS data confirms that CMU has a relatively low number of staff per number of students. While this could point to a shortcoming, such data also shows that the university tries to allocate limited resources towards educational purposes.
5. The committee members brainstormed pieces of evidence for Criterion 5.C.1: “The institution allocates its resources in alignment with its mission and priorities, including, as applicable, its comprehensive research enterprise, associated institutes and affiliated centers.”
- Initial thoughts: Affordable education remains the focus of the university, but there are other important aspects of the institution’s mission: support diversity, critical thinking, and social responsibility.
 - Annual budget planning process requires each departmental request to connect to at least one strategic goal.
 - Professional Development Funds for faculty members support the university’s comprehensive research enterprise.
 - The Golden Scholar Program is an example of community outreach and intellectual development.
 - The Civic Forum is committed to bringing speakers like Bari Weiss to campus to discuss pertinent topics, thus promoting critical thinking and social responsibility.
 - Variety of associated institutes and affiliated centers: Center for Teacher Education, Cyber Security Center, Electrical Lineworker Center, Forensic Investigation Research Station, Maverick Innovation Center, Natural Resource Center, and Social Research Center
 - Internships and experiential learning opportunities are available at the Maverick Hotel, POST Academy, St. Mary’s Hospital, and District 51 schools (for students in Hospitality Management, Criminal Justice, Nursing, Physical Assistant Studies, and Secondary Education programs).
 - Additional connections to local community: Robinson Theater, Eureka! McConnell Science Museum, and 437CO Art Gallery in downtown Grand Junction
 - The Montrose Campus provides similar opportunities.
 - The advanceCMU project was created to “connect, collaborate, elevate and ignite university expertise and regional partners.”
 - Organized by the Office of Student Life, the Student Stipend program distributes a significant amount of funds to qualified students.
 - Lingering consideration: In order to highlight evidence of “alignment,” we need to make connections between budgets and specific programs.
6. The committee members brainstormed pieces of evidence for Criterion 5.C.2: “The institution links its processes for assessment of student learning, evaluation of operations, planning and budgeting.”
- Previously known as the Working Group to Improve Student Academic Success (WGISAS), the Retention Committee is led by the VPAA and meets monthly. Utilizing assessment data, the group works to retain students and increase their odds for success.

- Feedback has led to changes for the Office of Integrated Resources for Information and Solutions (IRIS), which has become more responsive to student needs.
 - Assessment data led to the creation of a new SLO: “Reflect on and respond to ethical, social, civic, and/or environmental challenges at local, national, and/or global levels (personal and social responsibility).”
 - The minutes of the Assessment Committee showcase efforts to “close the loop,” linking assessment data with program changes and budgeting requests.
 - “Spotlight on Assessment”: website highlights the achievements of the Political Science, Chemistry, and History faculty.
 - Student exit exams linked to specific position requests in some programs, like Political Science requesting the hire of an expert in International Relations.
 - Student feedback led to the development of a coaching minor in Sports Management.
 - With annual evaluations, classified staff must identify their contributions to the university’s strategic plan.
7. Rosenbaum confirmed the time for the next meeting (Tuesday, April 26, 12:30pm-1:30pm) before asking if the committee should reconsider its approach to discussing sub-components. The committee members agreed to keep the usual approach, dividing up the sub-components for brainstorming before the next meeting.
8. The second meeting ended at 3:56pm.