

PRT Team Interviews

Tentative Schedule

28-Oct-15

Time	PR Team 1(Room Q311)	PR Team 2(Room Q218)
8:30AM - 9:20AM	SLOAC	CTE/Perkins
Break		
10:00AM-11:20AM	ASMC	Classified Senate
Break		
11:30AM-12:30PM	Academic Senate	College Council
12:30PM - 1:30PM	Lunch	
1:30PM - 2:20PM	Accreditation Follow-Up Report Committee	CEMPC
Break		
2:30PM- 3:20PM	SSSP/Student Equity	Budget Committee
Break		
3:30PM- 4:30PM	PRT Team debriefs(Room Q218)	
4:30PM - 5:30PM	PRT Team meets with President Ambriz-Galaviz (Q218)	

Merritt College
Accreditation Follow-Up Report October 2015

Key Highlights of the 2015 Visiting Team's External Evaluation Report
Summary Section (pp. 4-6)

1. Beautifully packaged and published, but difficult to read for a number of reasons:
 - a. Document was long, a total of 419 pages
 - b. Links to supporting evidence were not embedded in the body of the narrative, rather at the end of each standard following the conclusions. This made it difficult to connect the evidence with the observations, findings, or conclusions being made.
 - c. The Team found many of the links to be broken.
 - d. In numerous instances, the evidence provided did not adequately support the statements made.
2. Much of the evidence for program reviews and student learning outcomes were templates of program review, as opposed to the actual program review document.
3. Same was true for evidence related to integrated planning.
4. Links to meeting minutes and other documents required the Team members to conduct additional searches for date-specific or topic-specific information needed as evidence.
5. Evidence of broad-based dialogue was scarce.
6. Overall, the Team found that the Self Evaluation Report did not provide the tea with an accurate description of the College and its status relative to the Accreditation Standards.
7. Key pieces of evidence were missing—for example, comprehensive program reviews and annual program updates in instructional and non-instructional areas, course outline of records, student learning outcomes assessment; access to online classes, Taskstream and CurricuNet, which the College was not able to provide until some point during the visit. This situation created a huge challenge for the Team in terms of time, and it seems for the College as well.
8. It appears that due to changes in key leadership positions as well as in which certain documents had been stored, the search for certain key documents requested by the Team proved time-consuming and frustrating.
9. In some instances, documents referenced in the Self Evaluation as evidence did not exist at all (e.g. the Student Handbook).
10. Patience and evidence-seeking efforts of the President, ALO, and the President's assistant were greatly appreciated.
11. The process of finding evidence was unusually laborious.

Eligibility Requirements (ER)

1. In compliance except for:
 - a. ER 10: Student Learning and Achievement
 - b. ER 18: Financial Accountability
 - c. ER 19: Institutional Planning and Evaluation

2. The College will need to complete a cycle of planning that is linked to resource allocation, including a full cycle of comprehensive program reviews and student learning outcomes assessment.
3. Some audit findings in 2013 and 2014 noted in the District's Corrective Action Matrix are not yet fully resolved

Commission Policies

1. The College meets the Commission Policies addressed in the Self Evaluation except—
2. The College does not meet the Commission's Policy on Institutional Compliance with Title IV.

Standards

1. **The College has more work to do in meeting the Standards.**
2. With the President and two permanent VPs in place, and the hiring of additional administrators and staff, including a college based researcher, the College is poised to move forward with leadership that is able to sustain work on institutionalizing the College's work on institutionalizing accreditation Standards.
3. The College cleared all the College and District recommendations identified by the 2009 Visiting Team by April 2013, and the College was removed from warning and its accreditation was reaffirmed.
4. **The findings of the 2015 Visiting Team suggest that the College was not able to sustain its work in meeting all of the Accreditation Standards, due in part to turnover in leadership.**

Transparency

1. The Core Team is committed to transparency, accountability, and ongoing communication.
2. The Core Team and the Accreditation Follow-Up Report Steering Committee will facilitate communication to the entire College community via a monthly newsletter. The newsletter, ***Merritt College Accreditation Follow-up Report Update***, will:
 - a. Disseminated at the end of each month.
 - b. Provide a straightforward synopsis of ongoing updates and progress reports related to our processes.
 - c. Include a summary on the progress of the efforts of the Core Team and the Accreditation Follow-up Committee Steering Committee.
 - d. Include the progress and work of the nine (9) College Recommendation Subcommittees.
2. A Merritt College Accreditation Follow-Up Report website will be implemented, maintained and monitored, and including regular uplinks of draft documents, electronic copies of evidence, etc...

Trajectory

1. Achieving **Reaffirmed Accreditation** is the ultimate goal. With this goal in mind, the Core Team and Accreditation Follow-up Steering Committee shall promote **reasonable expectations, realistic goals, and a projected timeframe for outcome achievements.**
2. **Reaffirmed Accreditation** can be achieved from the corrective actions developed, implemented by the nine (9) College Recommendation Sub-Committees in the coming year, and the measures taken to meet Eligibility Requirements (ER) 10, 18, and 19.
3. Most importantly, the 2015-16 corrective actions taken by the college to meet the Standards and Eligibility Requirements **must demonstrate SUSTAINABILITY.**

Systemic Changes

1. Merritt College faculty, administrators, and staff must **COMMIT** to:
 - a. The goal of making incremental changes that are sustainable over time with the mindset that our foundational work will create a template for us to be modified and refined, moving forward.
 - b. Optimally we need designated teams to commit to a long term plan to ensure continuity by taking responsibility and ownership for specific content areas.
 - c. We want to recruit and mobilize ALL COLLEGE CONSTITUENCIES for the long-term, rather than for the sole purpose of creating a quick one-time fix designed specifically to move us off of probation with no further commitment for follow-up and Sustainability!

Merritt College

Accreditation Follow-Up Report
 Inspect what you expect!

18 Month Timeline

