Academic Prioritization

*1 C4: Educational program is not offered in multiple modalities. We recommend that the program collect community demand and interest data and articulate an action plan to meet the needs of the students outside the Lummi Campus.*

As the only individual in this program, how can he teach hands-on classes online, interactive TV, or Independent Learning Classes without someone on-site to assist the students? The college has only recently considered obtaining a part time instructor for the Lummi campus to alleviate some of the current instructor's load. This program, as important as it is, does not receive much support (current Dean excluded) from the institution. It would be a great idea to ascertain the need from the other sites. This would be a great project for the Institutional Research and the Assessment departments.

*2. C5: The average number of quarters to completion is longer than other programs or what the expectations are of this program. We recommend the program identify and define the appropriate and realistic on-time completion rates and assessment of the success of the program for the unique population of the ATA-IT program. What is a realistic “on-time” completion rate?*

Realistic? Most of the students also work and have families and take the minimum 12 credits for a full time student status. The 2-year completion expectation is based upon 15 credits per quarter without any extra pre-requisites or developmental education courses. The biggest problem is scheduling conflicts with all of the non-computer related classes. I created a schedule 13 years ago that allows any student to enter the IT program at any quarter and theoretically complete it in 2 years if they take 15 credits per quarter. Stumbling block: non-IT courses that conflict or that are infrequently offered. It appears that until there is a course schedule with minimum conflicts, it will be extremely difficult to accurately predict a realistic completion time. According to the National Center for Education Statistics,

… full-time students who began seeking a bachelor’s degree at a 4-year institution in fall 2006 completed the degree at that institution within 6 years. (http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=40)

Three years after enrolling in a community college, 49 percent of beginning postsecondary students had maintained their enrollment or completed a program of study at their first institution …

*3. C9: It is clear that supporting and promoting student success is at the forefront of this program. In order to expand the definition of student success and more fully meet the college’s mission, we recommend that the program identify gaps in how the program connects specifically to each part of the strategic plan and articulate how it connects to the philosophy of teaching learning at NWIC.*

I don’t understand this comment. I need more information in order to respond.

C10 Comments: The only thing that will affect my work plan positively is to receive more support from the institution in the form of: additional instructional help; update the quality of the classroom; and, to update the classroom computers. I have been asking for updated computer equipment since 2000 with extraordinary little response. Please re-read my Prioritization submission for more details.