

## University of Cincinnati HLC/NCA Self-Study

The two-year University of Cincinnati self-study for reaccreditation culminates in the spring with a site visit from a team representing the Higher Learning Commission/North Central Association.

Over the past year, a university-wide steering committee has overseen the work of five writing teams that are aligning the criteria of the self-study with the goals of UC|21. The criteria are:

- Mission and Integrity
- Preparing for the Future
- Student Learning and Effective Teaching
- Acquisition, Discovery and Application of Knowledge
- Engagement and Service

### **Timeline:**

**January:** Draft of the self-study posted online. Comment period runs through Jan. 29.

**Winter quarter:** Organization of the resource room begins, located in TUC.

### **Feb. 8-9**

Preview visit and preparations with Celestino Fernández, chair of the UC national HLC accreditation/evaluation team. Fernández, a professor of sociology at the University of Arizona, has served on accreditation review teams throughout the United States as well as internationally.

### **March 2-3**

HLC consultant/evaluator visit by Elaine Klein, University of Wisconsin-Madison assistant dean in the College of Letters and Science. Klein served as a consultant-evaluator for the University of Akron accreditation review.

**March:** *Executive Summary* of the self-study report made available.

**April 26-29:** Campus visit.

**Summer 2009:** The president receives a draft of the NCA/HLC report.

**Fall 2009:** Final commission action and recommendation for accreditation.

### **Key Findings:**

- General Education is highlighted in the report and is continually revisited and improved. The transition to a semester-based model of General Education is currently under consideration.
- Perceptions of UC's involvement and commitment to the Greater Cincinnati region have improved.
- After years of enrollment slippage, UC|21 strategies have resulted in record enrollment and this fall's most academically prepared freshman class on campus.
- The creation of colleges' UC|21 alignment reports
- The creation of the diversity council in support of the university's mission
- Self-study emphasizes the transformation of campus from the last report
- Budget planning process now tied to academic priorities
- Challenges: Ensuring the university mission remains supported within the emerging University System of Ohio
- Recommendations include mandating a redesign of instruments for graduate and undergraduate program review to meet university-wide requirements

### **Support the Self-Study**

- Help build general awareness
- Be available to meet with evaluators during the campus visit
- Review the report and executive summary
- Become familiar with key findings in the report

**Web site: [www.uc.edu/hlcaccreditation](http://www.uc.edu/hlcaccreditation)**

**E-Mail: [HLC@uc.edu](mailto:HLC@uc.edu) Phone: 513-556-1040**