Accreditation

In April 2011 OSU will be visited by the NWCCU group for their annual ten year accreditation review. Unlike previous reviews, the standards by which OSU will be judged have changed along with the format of the self-study. Generally speaking OSU will be evaluated in three areas, undergraduate education, graduate education and research, and outreach and engagement. These areas are called the “Core Themes” of the University.

For each Core Theme, we are to be judged by certain “institutional indicators”. The number of such indicators and the nature of them has been set by the Accreditation Steering Committee after extensive consultation with the NWCCU. The attached spreadsheet shows the Core Themes and the indicators. A request to various groups has been made to provide data for these indicators (with a due date of 15 September). The institution must now evaluate the data submitted for the indicators and assign a “grade” for each indicator/objective/Core Theme. Needless to say, we will give ourselves passing grades in everything but we do have to be honest and point out areas where we are not doing well, especially in relation to our peer institutions. We are then asked to provide plans for remedying the perceived shortcomings. (We know, for example, that we will be “dinged” for 50 M$ of deferred maintenance but there is nothing we can do about that). There will be follow-up visits every two years to see our “progress” in fixing our shortcomings.

The Graduate Council has been asked to provide the “grades” for Graduate Education. I attach a pseudo report card similar to the one developed by the University of Alaska who was the guinea pig for this protocol. Don’t take this report card seriously as it was just intended to show the level of comments needed to justify the “grades”.

The immediate task for the Graduate Council is to decide how you want to do the grading. Do you want to appoint a committee to do the grading or do it as a group or..?

When are the grades due? Yesterday!! Or more realistically within a month.