

CRITERION ONE – MISSION AND INTEGRITY
Steering Committee Meeting Notes
09/30/09

Based on Steering Committee comments, the revised strengths and concerns are as follows:

Northwest College Prides Itself on

- **A focus on student learning.**
Vote: Aye – unanimous.
 - There was no significant discussion on this topic.
- **A commitment to diversity and multicultural programming.**
Vote: Aye – unanimous.
 - There was no significant discussion on this topic.
- **Serving as a cultural hub and model of community enrichment and development.**
Vote: Aye – unanimous.
 - The members wanted to emphasize the significant role of Northwest College in the community.
- **Mission documents based on college-wide collaboration.**
Vote: Aye – unanimous.
 - There was no significant discussion on this topic.
- **Publicizing its mission documents to all constituencies.**
Vote: Aye – unanimous.
 - There was no significant discussion on this topic.
- **A long history of shared governance.**
Vote: Aye – unanimous.
 - Shared governance is an important characteristic of Northwest College.
 - We have structures in place for campus involvement.
 - Shared governance needs to continue to be an area of focus.
 - The Northwest College shared governance has been erratic.
- **The Board of Trustees commitment to the success of the college.**
Vote: Aye – 13, Nay - 1
 - There was a general consensus that the Board of Trustees care about the college.

Northwest College Challenges Itself to

- **Use and evaluate the mission documents more consistently.**
Vote – Aye – unanimous.
 - Evaluation consistency tends to vary with presidents.
 - The committee recommended that the President work with the Board of Trustees to ensure that the mission statement is used consistently in decision making.
- **Continue to value and refine shared governance.**
Vote – Aye – unanimous.
 - We need to solidify the consistent use of College Council in our shared governance.
- **More consistently integrate College Council into shared governance and college leadership.**

Vote: Aye – unanimous.

- We need to strengthen the College Council’s place and the importance of its place in the college leadership role.

- **Develop a budget process that is more inclusive and transparent.**

Vote: Aye – unanimous.

- There was no significant discussion on this topic.

- **Create a system for regular evaluation of college structures, processes, and policies.**

Vote: Aye – unanimous.

- Some misgivings stem from the fact that the College has no consistent review process. In fact, because of revision irregularities, some important policies no longer have a “home” (e.g., the alcohol-testing policy and benefits specifics).

- **Foster Board of Trustees professional development in terms of policy governance and evaluation methods.**

- **Vote: Aye – unanimous.**

- The committee agreed that the Board of Trustees should continue its professional development, particularly in terms of its self-evaluation. Given NCA comments in the 2001 report, the committee views *Board* evaluation as particularly important.
- The committee agreed on the need for more systematic evaluation given handbook changes that have resulted in the loss of governance materials and some purchasing policies. There were also questions about revisions to the *Student Handbook*.