

CRITERION FOUR – Acquisition, Discovery, & Application of Knowledge
Steering Committee Meeting Notes
10/28/09

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

Northwest College Prides Itself on

- **An exceptional learning environment that includes an extensive library, well equipped science labs, and extensive technology resources.**
Vote: Aye – unanimous.
 - Renee proposed an additional bullet point be placed in Criterion 4.
 - The committee agreed and there was no significant discussion on this topic.
- **A strong general education component in all degrees that supports a life of learning.**
Vote: Aye – unanimous.
 - There was no significant discussion on this topic.
- **A faculty-driven curriculum that transfers well to other colleges and universities.**
Vote: Aye – unanimous.
 - There was some discussion concerning articulation and transfer.
 - It was agreed to leave the bullet as written.
- **Industry advised Associate of Applied Science degree programs that prepares students for the workplace.**
Vote: Aye – unanimous.
 - The wording was changed to emphasize the importance of Advisory Boards' advice concerning curriculum within programs.
- **Opportunities for students to apply their learning and research skills both inside and outside the classroom.**
Vote: Aye – unanimous.
 - There was no significant discussion on this topic.
- **Capstone courses that promote critical as well as creative thinking and facilitate the integration of learning.**
Vote: Aye – unanimous.
 - There was some discussion on this bullet point but no changes were made.
- **A residential life program that encourages whole-person development, promoting social responsibility and respect for self and others.**
Vote: Aye – unanimous.
 - The Committee felt this is a definite pride for Northwest but additional support data will need to be added to the document.
- **Professional development opportunities for faculty and staff.**
Vote: Aye – unanimous.
 - There was no significant discussion on this topic.

Northwest College Challenges Itself to

- **Use data more effectively for planning and improvement of programs and services.**
Vote – Aye – unanimous.
 - With the rewording of the statement to include “programs and services”.
- **More effectively prepare students for success in online learning environment.**
The committee agreed to this additional bullet point being placed in Criterion 4.
Vote: Aye – unanimous.
 - The committee discussed adding this challenge with the addition of a paragraph in the text.
- **Improve the outcomes of developmental learning courses.**
Vote: Aye – unanimous to endorse this bullet.
 - There was no significant discussion on this topic.
- **Maintain and improve funding for faculty and staff professional development.**
Vote: Aye – unanimous.
 - There was no significant discussion on this topic.
- **Reconsider the general education component of the Associate of Applied Science in light of new transfer opportunities.**
Vote: Aye – unanimous.
 - There was no significant discussion on this topic.
- **Develop a statement which reinforces “freedom of inquiry” for non-teaching staff.**
The committee agreed to this additional bullet point being placed in Criterion 4.
Vote: Aye – unanimous to add this bullet.
 - There was discussion regarding policy vs. reinforcement of “freedom of inquiry” for non-teaching staff.
- **Continue to use capstone performance data to build student skills earlier in their academic careers.**
The committee agreed to this additional bullet point being placed in Criterion 4.
Vote: Aye – unanimous to add this bullet.
 - There was no significant discussion on this topic.