Middle States Commission on Higher Education

Town Hall
Harrisburg, PA

March 26, 2019
Welcome & Introductions

Mr. Brian Kirschner
Director of Communications & Public Relations

Dr. Heather Perfetti
Senior Vice President for Legal Affairs & Chief of Staff

Dr. Andrea Lex
Senior Vice President for Operations

Dr. Christy Faison
Senior Vice President for Accreditation Relations

Additional MSCHE Staff in Attendance

Ms. Diana Bonner
Executive Assistant to the Vice Presidents

Ms. Christina D'Argenio
Executive Assistant to the President and Manager of Commission Relations

Mr. KJ Fitzpatrick
Senior Director for Conferences & Educational Programs

Dr. Sean McKitrick
Vice President
Schedule

10 a.m. to Noon

• Town Hall

Noon to 1:30 p.m.

• Break: Lunch on Your Own

1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

• ALO Workshop
  (paid session, pre-registration)
MSCHE
Middle States Commission on Higher Education
Celebrating 100 Years: 1919-2019
INNOVATING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

New Ideas, Practices, and Services in Higher Education

MSCHE 2019 Annual Conference
December 9–11, 2019
Philadelphia, PA | www.msche.org
Topics and Presenters

- Trends in the MSCHE Region: Dr. Heather Perfetti
- External Items of Interest: Dr. Perfetti
- Salesforce Portal Access: Dr. Andrea Lex
- Annual Institutional Update: Dr. Lex
- The Renewed Accreditation Cycle: Dr. Christy Faison
- Mid-Point Peer Review: Dr. Faison
- Institutional Self-Study: Dr. Faison
- Policies and Procedures: Dr. Perfetti
- Collaboration & Engagement: Dr. Perfetti
- Q&A: Mr. Brian Kirschner
Trends in the MSCHE Region

- New Members/Applicants
- Mergers and Closures
- “Free College”
- Tuition “freeze”
- Early College / Dual Enrollment
- Expansion of instructional sites and additional locations
- Expansion in credential levels
- Distance education
- For-profit conversions to non-profit status
- Third-party providers
- International Movement
External Items of Interest

- **Political Environment**
  - USDE
  - Negotiated Rulemaking

- **Legal Environment**
  - ACE Amicus Curiae Briefs

- **Changing Accreditation Landscape**
  - Council for Regional Accrediting Commissions (C-RAC)
  - Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)
MSCHE Salesforce Portal

Volunteer* Portal
- Evaluator Data Form
- Meetings
- Reviews
- Training Videos

Institution Portal
- Institutional Profile
- Key Contacts
- Locations
- AIU
- Reviews
- Training Videos

* Peer Evaluators and Commissioners
MSCHE Portals

Volunteer* Portal
- Evaluator Data Form
- Meetings
- Reviews
- Training Videos
  - https://go.msche.org/volunteer-portal-training-videos

Institution Portal
- Institutional Profile
- Key Contacts
- Locations
- AIU
- Reviews
- Training Videos
  - https://go.msche.org/institution-portal-training-videos

* Peer Evaluators and Commissioners
Key Contacts

- CEO
- CFO
- ALO
- Portal Delegate
- Self-Study Co-Chairs
A word about the Portal Delegate as a Key Contact …

- All key contacts have access to all information in the institution portal
- Email is generally sent to the CEO, CFO, and ALO
- The portal delegate does not routinely receive email messages, so AIU-related correspondence needs to be forwarded to the portal delegate
- If you are using a portal delegate for the AIU, this person should be familiar with IPEDS and related data
- This person **SHOULD NOT** be the only person to review AIU information before it is submitted
Access from the Institution Portal
HELP!

- Data Dictionaries
- “Hover bubbles”
- research@

Live Chat!
Annual Institutional Update – 2019

Dr. Lex

- Opens April 15, 2019, and closes at 5 PM Eastern Time on May 17, 2019
  - No extensions will be given

- No major changes

- Pre-loaded data elements for those who complete IPEDS
  - Institutional Characteristics
  - Student Achievement
  - Finance

- Primary resource for MPPR Information
- Institutions required to do so will document progress
Going forward Commission actions may require that an institution provide annual updates on progress in making improvements in certain areas. Sample language:

To request that, beginning in 2019 and in conjunction with each Annual Institutional Update prior to the Mid-Point Peer Review in 2023, the institution provide further evidence of the periodic assessment of the effectiveness of mission and goals.

The AIU will be the reporting mechanism for these updates.

These updates and “contextual information” provided during the AIU will be available to reviewers during the MPPR.
When the 2019 AIU opens, a textbox will become available for data entry.
What did we learn from the 2018 AIU?  Dr. Lex

- Please read the directions and/or view the videos before you begin!

- Review your key contacts
  - CEO
  - CFO
  - ALO
  - Portal Delegate*

* Optional
What did we learn from the 2018 AIU? Dr. Lex

- Do take advantage of the opportunities (required and optional) to provide additional information

- “Required” when the difference year-to-year exceeds a certain percentage

- “Optional” to provide additional context for the reviewers

- Be thoughtful - “it went up; it went down” is NOT HELPFUL

- Include how the institution is facilitating these changes
The University was aware that a demographic change was occurring throughout the region with a decline in traditional age college bound students. In addition, there is increased competition and discounting for students among numerous colleges and universities in the area. As a result of these external factors the university:

- Worked to right-size the faculty and staff through attrition (eliminating 29 faculty positions and 20 staff positions over the last five years)
- Eliminated academic programs with low enrollment and little demand and added new programs with more demand
- Implemented, a new CRM system in admissions
- Contracting with a consulting firm to help with marketing, enrollment planning, and financial aid leveraging
- Opening new markets with associate degree options at the main campus
- Marketing to non-traditional, adult students including transfer students and veterans

Enrollment Comment Example

Dr. Lex
Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation

- Eight-year cycle in effect
- First Annual Institutional Updates and Mid-Point Peer Reviews – 2018
- First Self-Study Evaluations using renewed process – 2019-2020
The Renewed Accreditation Cycle

Annual Institutional Update
- Financial and Student Achievement data
- Responses to recommendations (if needed)

Mid-Point Peer Review
- Cumulative Peer Review of AIU trend data
- Feedback from the Commission

Self Study Evaluation
- Campus engagement in self-study process that culminates with an onsite visit by peer evaluators

Opportunities/Input for Institutional Improvement

Dr. Faison
Mid-Point Peer Review

- This year only: 15 institutions; review of data only; actions in March
- Key indicators for finances and “student achievement”
- Evaluators’ feedback on levels of concern
- Institutional response
- Committee review
- Commission review and action
Institutional Self-Study- New or Revised  Dr. Faison

- Enhanced focus on Self-Study Design
- Explicit Intended Outcomes
- Focus on Institutional Priorities
- Two organizational approaches
- Identification of opportunities for improvement and innovation
- Evidence Inventory
Demonstrates how the institution meets Commission Standards for Accreditation, Requirements of Affiliation, Policies and Procedures, and Federal Regulations

Focuses on self-appraisal and continuous improvement

Engages the campus community in an inclusive process
What is Expected from the Self-Study?  Dr. Faison

- Systematic evidence vs. assertions, anecdotes, and future plans
- Evidence of consistency across operations and offerings
- Evidence of current and sustainable compliance
- Implemented processes and results
- Structures to ensure sustainability
What is Expected from the Self-Study? Dr. Faison

- Institutional accomplishments and outcomes
- Evidence and analysis
- Data summaries/supporting documentation
- Honest appraisal of institution
- Ongoing institutional improvement and innovation
Self-Study Guide for 2019 and Beyond

Dr. Faison

https://go.msche.org/ssi-guide
MSCHE Policies and Procedures

Supporting shifts in higher education

Revisions to reflect new standards and renewed accreditation cycle

Major revisions to the Commission's policy framework

Reminder: Institutional Changes through Substantive Change
Collaboration – MSCHE & Members

Dr. Perfetti

- Participation in our accreditation processes / Supporting evaluators from your campuses

- Supporting the Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) and co-chairs of Self-Study Evaluations

- Considering commissioner nomination

- Advocacy - legislative agenda

- Informing MSCHE training and workshops for institutions
Q & A

Mr. Kirschner
Thank You!

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