



Brandeis University

*Presentation on the Accreditation
Process*

–Academic Affairs Committee–

March 22, 2005

Overview of Accreditation

Why Accreditation?



Accreditation...

- *Conducted by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)*
- *Allows the institution to assess itself against the standards of the higher education community and its own mission*
- *Looks not just at academic quality, but also at student services, financial condition, and administrative infrastructure*
- *Assures the public of quality*

Overview of Accreditation

Brandeis' Last Accreditation: 1996

Chair: James O. Freedman



Areas to focus on for the next decade...

- *A salary plan for faculty and staff*
- *Deferred maintenance, especially student housing*
- *An information technology infrastructure and equipping classrooms*
- *A financial aid policy based on institutional resources*
- *Enhancing the financial resources of the university*

Overview of Accreditation

Accreditation Occurs in Three Phases



- *Self-Study: an internal review based on NEASC standards (February 2005 – Summer 2006)*
- *On-Site Evaluation: a visit by peer evaluators (November 12 –15, 2006)*
- *Review: NEASC's Commission on Institutions of Higher Education takes action on the re-accreditation request (Spring 2007)*

Overview of Accreditation

What Does NEASC Look At?



- 1. *Mission and Purposes***
- 2. *Planning and Evaluation***
- 3. *Organization and Governance***
- 4. *The Academic Program***
 - *Undergraduate Degree Programs*
 - *General Education*
 - *The Major or Concentration*
 - *Graduate Degree Programs*
 - *Integrity in the Award of Academic Credit*
 - *Assessment of Student Learning*

- 5. *Faculty***
 - *Teaching and Advising*
 - *Scholarship and Research*
- 6. *Students***
 - *Admissions*
 - *Retention and Graduation*
 - *Student Services*
- 7. *Library and Other Information Resources***
- 8. *Physical and Technological Resources***
- 9. *Financial Resources***
- 10. *Public Disclosure***
- 11. *Integrity***

Each of these has multiple standards and criteria.

Overview of Accreditation

NEASC Standard Three:

Organization and Governance



- *The institution has a system of governance that facilitates the accomplishment of its mission and purposes and supports institutional effectiveness and integrity.*
- *The authority, responsibilities and relationships among the governing board, administration, faculty and staff are described in the institution's bylaws.*
- *The governing board is responsible for the institution's quality and integrity.*
- *The board systematically develops and ensures its own effectiveness through periodic evaluation.*

Brandeis is the first research university to look at board governance and self-assessment under the new NEASC Standards.

Overview of Accreditation

NEASC Standard Three:

Organization and Governance Committee



- *Chair: Trustee*
- *Suggested Committee Members: Trustee, Faculty Senate Representative*
- *Outreach to Standing Committee: Faculty Senate Council*
- *Support Staff: Legal Counsel, Assistant Secretary of the Corporation*

Overview of Accreditation
The NEASC Standards



NEASC is focused on:

- *Effectiveness: how well do you do it?*
- *Assessment: how, and how often, do you evaluate yourselves?*
- *Measurement: how do you tell if there's been progress?*
- *Improvement: what will you do about it?*

*Brandeis is the first research university to go through re-accreditation
under the new NEASC Standards.*

Process and Organization

Principles for the Accreditation Process



- *Draw on existing faculty committees to organize the workload.*
- *Obtain faculty input as reviewers and Co-Chairs.*
- *Draft text prepared by administrative staff.*
- *Maintain frequent communications about the process with the Brandeis community.*
- *Be candid.*
- *Use this as an opportunity to build a better Brandeis.*
- *Set high standards for all subsequent re-accreditations under the new Standards.*

University leadership is committed to making this a valuable learning experience for the institution.

Process and Organization
Organizational Structure



- *Accreditation Co-Chairs: Marty Krauss and Peter French*
- *Steering Committee: University Advisory Council*
- *Project Managers: Michael Whelan and Jim Hurley*
- *Committee Chairs/Faculty Co-Chairs*
- *Support Staff*

The Self-Study

The Self-Study Is Central to Re-Accreditation



- *The self-study is the heart, soul, and guts of the accreditation process*
- *The quality and integrity of the self-study will determine:*
 - *The outcome of the process*
 - *Our success at using the process for self-improvement*
- *Roughly 100 page document that is descriptive, analytic, and projects change*

The core of the self-study will be based on the work of the Committees.

Next Steps

Timeline and Key Milestones



- *March '05: Chairs convene Committees*
- *January '06: Deadline for first draft*
- *May and June: Revised self-study disseminated for community review*
- *Summer: Draft submitted to NEASC*
- *November: Accreditation Team visit to campus*
- *Winter '07: Receipt of NEASC Accreditation Team evaluation*
- *Spring '07: Re-accreditation by NEASC*

For More Information...



- *See www.brandeis.edu/NEASC for updated information related to the process*
- *See the NEASC website at www.neasc.org and especially the site map at www.neasc.org/cihe/cihe_sitemap.htm*