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# Shawnee Statement

**Special Edition**

**May 3, 1995**

## **N.C.A. Reviewers Visit Campus May 8 and 9**

On Monday and Tuesday, May 8 and 9, Dr. Carol Gartner and Dr. Kenneth Kolbet will visit our campus to represent the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). Serving as consultant-evaluators, Gartner and Kolbet will follow up on the comprehensive site visit that was conducted in 1993 by a team of four NCA representatives from other colleges in the region.

The team will focus on our governance structure, development of new baccalaureate degree programs, and financial stability. In addition, the University will be reviewed to determine if it is making progress in assessing student learning outcomes, which is a required review of all NCA-affiliated institutions.

"The consultant-evaluators will essentially validate the self-study report that a team of fourteen faculty and administrators developed during the past year," said Dr. Paul Crabtree, coordinator of the project and vice president for student affairs. Assisting Dr. Crabtree by chairing the focus teams were Dr. David Creamer (finances), Suzanne Shelpman (governance), Dr. A. L. Addington (baccalaureate degrees), and Ginny Hamilton (assessment). Dr. Gene Beckett served as editor of the self-study report.

President Clive Veri praised the faculty and administrators who devoted countless hours collecting data, attending meetings, and then writing a brief, but highly communicative, report. Serving as a consultant-evaluator for both the NCA and New England Association for several years, he said, "The self-study is one of the best I've seen. Too often," he said, "institutions bury consultant-evaluators in too much paper, which tends to cause them to have to dig and search for information. Our self-study report gets to the point and then provides appendices to back up the report.

(over)

The president expressed his feelings that the three reasons for the focused visit were legitimate concerns of the 1993 consultant-evaluators. "We have addressed those concerns directly, and with the help of the Ohio General Assembly and responsible stewardship of our resources, our financial condition is the best it has ever been. Moreover," Veri said, "our faculty worked very hard in designing ten new academic majors and five minors at the baccalaureate level since March 1993, which were approved by the Ohio Board of Regents in record time." On the issue of governance, while the University Senate was designed on paper, it had not been fully functioning as it is now, which will be validated by Gartner and Kolbet.

The process of assessing student learning outcomes is in progress at Shawnee State as it is at most other colleges in the NCA region. It is a new requirement that the accrediting association expects affiliated institutions to be in a state of becoming. According to Veri, "We are about where we ought to be in the process since some programs, like all of those in health sciences and in education, have completed the task while other programs are in various stages of completion."

Dr. Gartner, professor of English at Purdue University Calumet, will chair the team. Her degrees were awarded by Cornell University, Catholic University of America, and New York University. In addition to her serving as dean of arts and sciences at Purdue, she has taught at Northeastern Illinois University and Pace University's White Plains College.

Dr. Kolbet has served the College of DuPage, a large two-year college in the Chicago suburbs, as vice president for administrative affairs and treasurer since 1979, and as controller and chief accountant in previous years. He is a BBA graduate of the University of Iowa, and his graduate degrees are all from Northern Illinois University.

Accreditation by the North Central Association is important to the functioning of all colleges. Universities improve themselves through the processes of self-study, introspection, and analysis, which, in the absence of regional accrediting bodies, may not normally occur. When institutions measure themselves against a set of rigorous standards like the NCA's, students are relatively assured they will receive a quality education that is recognized nationally. Moreover, colleges that are not regionally accredited are not eligible to receive federal financial aid for its students.