

2016 Periodic Review Report Outcomes: A Snapshot

By Don Sutherland

Last Thursday was again Thanksgiving Day. On that annual holiday, one could again renew that longstanding, but soon-to-disappear, tradition of reviewing the Middle States Commission on Higher Education's (MSCHE) Periodic Review Report (PRR) outcomes. To borrow from John Winthrop's "City Upon a Hill" Sermon of 1630, the outcomes provided a vivid reminder that if we assess periodically and align our purposeful choices to the College's mission and goals, future generations shall say of one's institution that "we shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us."

For 2016, 55 institutions submitted Periodic Review Reports. Twenty-three (42%) received a follow-up request (3-year average: 50%). Those institutions were cited on an average of 2.4 MSCHE Standards each (3-year average: 2.3). Perhaps because MSCHE is already beginning to look ahead to the new standards, one request for follow-up referred to Standard V (Educational Effectiveness Assessment) and another to Standard VI (Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement).

The dramatic increase in Standard 3 (Institutional Resources) as a share of follow-up requests continued. Nearly two-thirds of follow-up requests cited Standard 3.

The 2016 PRR cycle saw MSCHE issue citations for 9 of its 14 standards. The only standards not cited were Standard 1 (Mission and Goals), Standard 9 (Student Support Services), Standard 10 (Faculty), Standard 11 (Educational Offerings), and Standard 13 (Related Educational Activities).

MSCHE Standards Cited (% of Follow-up Requests):

MSCHE Standard	2016 Cycle	3-Year Average	5-Year Average
Standard 2: Planning, Resource Allocation, Institutional Renewal	26%	27%	27%
Standard 3: Institutional Resources	65%	58%	36%
Standard 4: Leadership and Governance	17%	12%	12%
Standard 5: Administration	9%	7%	7%
Standard 6: Integrity	9%	5%	3%
Standard 7: Institutional Assessment	35%	42%	38%
Standard 8: Student Admissions and Retention	26%	24%	18%
Standard 12: General Education	9%	17%	15%
Standard 14: Assessment of Student Learning	43%	66%	63%

The five most frequently cited standards were as follows:

Most Frequently Cited MSCHE Standards in Follow-up Requests:

Rank	2016 Cycle	3-Year Average	5-Year Average
1.	Standard 3	Standard 14	Standard 14
2.	Standard 14	Standard 3	Standard 7
3.	Standard 7	Standard 7	Standard 3
4.	Standards 2, 8	Standard 2	Standard 2
5.	Standard 4	Standard 8	Standard 8