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Report to the Faculty April 19, 2010

Self-Study Steering Committee
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The Self-Study Steering Committee (SSSC) has met six times this semester. We have reviewed both the 1993 Study and the comprehensive 2003 Self Study, and we are targeting a report that will fall somewhere between the two. We are encouraged that, unlike Mona Gardner did for the last visit, we do not have to invent a lot of means by which to collect data. Primarily through Michael Thompson, the university routinely gathers impressive amounts of information. However, it is the Committee's job not only to collect but to analyze this data. For this we will need much help.

First principle: Everything that we look at will be made available to you on our web site which is up and running. You will be able to see what we see. You will also be asked to provide feedback on our analysis. Give us enough feedback, we will ask you to join us. http://www.iwu.edu/selfstudy

Second Principle: The process will speak for the entire IWU community, and will be faculty led.

Third Principle: We intend to provide a clear, evaluative, and fully-supported report that we seek to earn us 10 years before the next visit.

Fourth Principle: We intend to construct our report in such a way as to facilitate the work of preparing the next strategic plan.

Fifth Principle: We intend to create a solid, carefully documented core of data that the entire IWU community can use for future planning.

Our next immediate tasks are to 1) agree upon an architecture for the document. We will consider our first proposal on Wednesday, April 21, 2) assemble a short list of open-ended questions that we can ask of all our constituencies, and 3) test an iteration of these questions on the staff this summer. Next fall we will pester you silly seeking answers to the same questions or your reaction to our analysis as we shift into full-blown data collection mode. At this point, we are targeting July 1, 2012 as the date by which we want to have completed our report, and anticipate a Team Visit in September of that same year.