Summary: June 24, 2008 meeting of the Accreditation Steering Committee

PRESENT: Amy Orr, Susan Barnes Whyte, Bill Millar, Jeff Summers, Brenda Devore Marshall, Bernie Turner, Pam Jacklin, Dan Preston (substitute scribe), Barbara Seidman.

NEXT MEETING & AUGUST PLANS
Anticipate that July 8 in the morning will be the next meeting (subsequently cancelled)
The committee should plan for an August meeting or meetings to discuss the introduction and conclusion of the full self study. There may be other reasons to meet as well...

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
Minutes from the May 13 meeting reviewed and approved.

VISIT TEAM CHAIR ANNOUNCED
It was announced that Dr. Les Steele, Academic Vice President for Seattle Pacific University, has been designated as the chair of the visit team to Linfield College. Tom Hellie had made some informal inquiries when he was informed about this assignment, and received positive feedback. Linfield should have a relatively seasoned accreditation team, as the commission attempts to send an experienced team to schools with relatively new presidents.

GENERAL ISSUES
The question was raised about what to do with some small portion of an exhibit (for example, a reference to a page in the Faculty Handbook). It was agreed to reference the section of the exhibit and not the page number within the exhibit.

Susan volunteered to work on exhibits for the report. This may come back to haunt her, but the offer was recorded.

Naming conventions for the exhibits will be distributed to the steering committee by Dan, with appropriate consultation about what will work for the overall process. Since each standard will have its own separate set of self-contained exhibits, it was agreed that for the text of each standard it is appropriate to use “EXHIBIT 1, EXHIBIT 2, …” for the naming conventions. Further information will be sent to the steering committee at the same time as the naming conventions are sent.

REVIEW OF JUNE 19 EMAIL
The committee reviewed the June 19 email about the status of each standard. There was no disagreement about how complete and ready for formatting each standard sits.

STANDARD NINE
There was discussion about the lack of strategic issues for standard nine. Where any strategic issues already accounted for in other standards? Is it more appropriate that this standard have operational items to consider as best practices, as opposed to strategic issues? It was agreed that appropriate caution be used in raising issues that might require further research and study, so as not to commit the college to additional responsibilities that may be difficult to accomplish. The section of the
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standard that refers to the “free pursuit of knowledge” was reviewed in light of a concern about how that plays out in daily campus life. There was appreciation expressed about the handling of the American Baptist issues in this standard.

Dan will work through the fact checking needs of this standard, as several areas are still noted as [STC]. Barbara and/or Pam Jacklin will draft the introduction and conclusion to this standard.

Minor editing comments were offered, as well as clarifications to some of the information in the standard.

STANDARD FOUR
Standard Four will be forwarded to the full committee for review and comment when ready.