Strengthening the role of science and technology and the challenges of the 21st century drives Missouri S&T’s planning process. A profound challenge for the institution is the diminishing interest among high school students in technological careers, a condition exacerbated by declining state support for higher education. Thus, much of its planning represents an attempt to meet these challenges while it seeks revenue sources to replace lost public funding and to respond to the changing needs of the employees of S&T graduates.

Promoting Accountability Beyond a campus-wide strategic planning committee, the university has appointed an institutional assessment committee to contribute to the planning process and to provide leadership and campus accountability. Missouri S&T departments have developed appropriate learning goals to guide the undergraduate degree programs and faculty members in those departments within those goals based upon assessment of their students’ work. Similarly, the campus, through its assessment of a variety of surveys and tests, has provided an array of programs to support student success. This collective effort has contributed to a marked improvement since 1999 in graduation and retention rates.

Commitment to Effective Teaching From the Freshman Faculty Program and New Faculty Teaching Scholars Program to its process of mentoring and Third-Year Reviews, the campus provides support for the continual development of its teaching faculty. Moreover, evidence of effective teaching is important in the hiring of new faculty members and in making salary, tenure, and promotion decisions. Missouri S&T has committed substantial resources to improving the various learning environments on campus. Beyond upgrading buildings, equipment and library resources, the campus has sought to employ technology and educational research practices in an effort to enhance the chances of student success.

Focus on Science and Engineering Education Missouri S&T has a significant position of strength relative to its peers and practices supportive of meeting its strategic plan goals related to the acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge. The institution’s mission demands that it integrate and promote the culture of lifelong learning that is inherently required by the ever-changing and continually improving nature of technology.

Entrepreneurial, Distance Education and Workshop Activities The university is responsive to its constituents’ needs and makes good use of its available resources to provide valuable services. Beyond the additional resources that external constituents can produce for the campus, perhaps the most meaningful reason to engage even more constituents can be found in the opportunities those engagements can provide for students. Besides the internships, co-ops, and proposed entrepreneurship programs that help students prepare for their careers, there is an over-large opportunity for service activity for students.

Challenges

Communication of Vision and Goals Improvements in the strategic planning process are being made. However, full implementation and communication of progress toward the institution’s mission via the campus’ website would improve campus awareness and integration of key planning documents.

Resources to Maintain High-Quality Faculty and Facilities Beyond improving the process of evaluating graduate program learning outcomes, the campus faces the challenge of securing the resources to retain a high-quality faculty and improve campus teaching laboratories.

Embracing Assessment and Continuous Improvement Notably, the campus must enhance the assessment efforts. It must fully implement its strategic objective to “develop an institutional culture of continuous improvement and regularly assess student outcomes.” Missouri S&T should continue to build upon its recent success in experiential and collaborative learning by engaging an increasing proportion of the student body in both types of learning experiences.

Maintaining World-Class Facilities A continual upgrading of facilities is vital as it is a commitment to improve the quality of advising on campus. Missouri S&T must maintain enough funding and other resources to balance its continual improvement goals. The demands of meeting public, technological education needs through improved physical facilities, technological education tools, and the most competent staff and faculty members are indeed key challenges.

Improving Staff Morale and Faculty Satisfaction While the campus must always be mindful that its services and facilities are in ever greater demand by external constituents, Missouri S&T cannot neglect the needs of its internal constituents. Notably, the campus must address the low morale of the staff and seek ways to measure faculty satisfaction.

Improving Campus Diversity S&T has made great gains in student diversity, but is still far from achieving a diverse student body, staff and faculty. Greater campus awareness of both progress and challenges in reaching diversity is needed. Missouri S&T must continue to expand its efforts to develop an even more diverse campus.

2008 Institutional Self Study

At-a-Glance

Since 1913, Missouri S&T has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. We were last reviewed in 1998 and received re-accreditation for ten years.

Missouri S&T will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit February 23-23, 2009, by a team representing the HLC. For the past two years, Missouri S&T has been engaged in a comprehensive self-study, addressing the requirements and criteria for accreditation.

Missouri S&T’s History of Accreditation

First date of accreditation: 1913
Last date of accreditation: 1998 (replaces 2009)

Importance of Accreditation

Standard of Institutional Quality and Reputation
Incentive for Campus Improvement
Transferability of Academic Credits for Students
Access to Student Financial Aid and Federal Funding
Required to Receive Program Accreditations (including ABET)

Purpose of Self Study
Prepare campus for the February, 2009 campus visit by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools
Provide information for continual improvement

S&T Values

TRADITION INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION INCLUSIVENESS EXCELLENCE

Mission

Missouri University of Science and Technology integrates education and research to create and convey knowledge to solve problems for our State and the technological world.

Accreditation is an activity of great importance for the university. Evaluating the past and planning for our future ensures currency, quality and viability.

The result of this comprehensive self-study provides information that will benefit Missouri S&T beyond re-accreditation. In fact, some self-study findings have already had beneficial effects. The full report is available online at accreditation.mst.edu. This publication is designed to provide the community with an overview of the university’s current standing and the self-study findings.