

Westfield State University

Institutional Response to the Final Report of the Evaluation Team
Prepared for the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges

Introduction

Before addressing the findings presented by the Evaluation Team in their Final Report, the Westfield State community would like to express its gratitude for the Team's efforts on our behalf and our appreciation for the clarity of the group's insights.

The Evaluation Team's appreciation for the University's unwavering "focus on the centrality of students and their educational experience" affirms the institution's notable student engagement in

governance

Study. Our response to those concerns and some minor issues follows.

Concern:

considerable attention. The Evaluation Team concludes that the impact has been positive: “The supporting materials supplied with the Self-Study suggest that the plan’s prioritized goals for the most part were achieved, or were determined to be ongoing beyond the timeframe of the plan.” At the time of the visit, the University’s Strategic Planning Committee was in the final stages of work on new mission, values, and vision statements and in the

That said, the University also recognizes the limitations of the current Common Core: in our Self-Study, for example, we note

First forms on pages 5 and 50 of the Self-Study. The University offers several online degree completion programs: these are not complete 120 credit undergraduate degrees, but offer students who have completed specific programs of study at Massachusetts Community Colleges the opportunity to complete a Bachelor's degree online. The online courses comprising these programs constitute a small percentage of our total online offerings; online course are offer through both the Day Division and the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education. As the Self-Study and Final Report both note, we are in the final stages of developing and implementing a series of policies related to our online programming (Appendix C), currently now in our governance process.