Using Accreditation as a Planning Tool
What’s the purpose of accreditation?

- Ensure that we’re achieving our mission
- Promote improvement through reflection and peer review.
  - Identify what we’re doing well, and what we need to work on
- Accreditation is vital to the survival of institutions…which can’t receive federal grants and student loans without it
High level timeline

- Middle States conducts a review every ten years
- The major steps in the process are
  - Design a self study and have it approved by Middle States (Completed December 2014)
  - Study Groups research their standards and write draft reports (Completed Summer 2014)
  - Write and submit the self study to Middle States (Spring 2016)
  - Host a site visit by a team of external reviewers comprised of university faculty and administrators (Fall 2016)
  - Receive a report from the review team
  - Respond to recommendations or suggestions (example: the construction Blue Ribbon Library Committee)
Our self study

- Will be a “selected topics” design, focusing most intently on a subset of the 14 Middle States standards
  - Mission and Goals
  - Planning, Budgeting, and Institutional Resources
  - Institutional Assessment
  - Assessment of Student Learning
- We show compliance with the remainder through documentation
Economic fundamentals that effect higher education are troubled

- Declining state and federal support
  - Slow economic growth
  - Age-based entitlement spending is rising (Social Security and Medicare)
  - Interest payments on the national debt (are going to more than triple over the decade…to about $800B, 3% of GDP)
- Underfunded public sector pensions

These fundamentals have lead to:

- Higher costs for students
- Rising levels of student debt
Slow growth
These forces will be transformative for higher education:

- How are we going to get out in front of them?
  - A strong planning process helps focus resources on institutional priorities, mission, and goals
  - Better use of data and analysis helps monitor progress
  - Combined with rigorous assessment of our academics and operations that helps us make changes when needed
- Good planning and improving our effectiveness means
  - Improving the student experience
  - Improvements in pedagogy to improve learning and shorten time to degree
  - Improves the efficiency of our academic enterprise
- Universities are a critical rung of the economic ladder
  - It’s vital that ladder not be pulled up behind us. We need to find ways to maintain access and affordability
How do the processes inform each other?

Advancing Our Mission

Middle States Steering Committee
- Mission & Goals
- Planning, Budgeting & Institutional Resources
- Assessing Student Learning Outcomes
- Institutional Effectiveness

Strategic Planning Steering Committee
- The Student Experience
- Community & Extended Connection
- Innovative Curriculum & Pedagogy
- Collective Impact in Research, Scholarship & Creative Achievement

Mission & Values
- Assessing our Performance
- Middle States Characteristics of Excellence

Guiding Principles for Planning
- Mission & Vision
What’s the larger vision for the process?

- Successful accreditation outcome
- Support the strategic plan
  - Improve our analysis and assessment of results for
    - Decision making
    - Resource allocation
    - Student outcomes
    - Student success
  - Improve communication by building an institutional effectiveness repository
- Use the information we gather to benchmark and measure progress toward the new plan’s goals
What we need from you...

- **Support** for our work (especially for the members of the committees taking this on as an additional service commitment)
- **Constructive comments** on the self study process and the draft documents
- **To be engaged** in the process so that the final product represents the campus and we get the benefit of your knowledge and experience
- **To be available** to meet with Middle States representatives and the external evaluation team when they visit campus
And we need it now...
The interactive session: a users guide

- The layout
  - The Middle States posters are designed to be entered from the IT side
  - It’s a “W”
    - The left leg is student learning outcomes assessment and success
    - The right leg institutional effectiveness and research
    - The middle is mission and goals and planning and budget, which ties the two sides together
- What we’re looking for
  - Suggestions on content, structure, interpretation of results
  - EXEMPLARS!!!
  - Post-it notes, middlestates@umbc.edu, committee members
- Suggestion
  - There’s a lot of material. Review quickly, then pick and dive deeply
Thanks to the people doing the heavy lifting
The Steering Committee

- Ultimately responsible for the self study and the entire process

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<tr>
<th>Dorothy Caplan</th>
<th>Scott Casper</th>
<th>David Kinkopf</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bill LaCourse</td>
<td>Diane Lee</td>
<td>Joshua Lubben</td>
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<td>Pat McDermott</td>
<td>Daniel Miller</td>
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<td>Bruce Walz</td>
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The Operating Committee

- Coordinates the work, vets the draft and final report

Michael Dillon        Delana Gregg
Lee Hawthorne          Kathleen Hoffman
Ben Lowenthal         Tony Moriera
Connie Pierson
The study group chairs

- Coordinate their group’s work, coordinate the writing of the draft reports

  Diane Lee                     Connie Pierson
  Lynne Schaefer                Simon Stacey
  Jack Suess                    Nico Washington
The study group members

Kent Malwitz
Jim Milani
Rachel Brewster
Linda Hodges
John Stolle-Mcallister
Karen Mattingly
Amanda Knapp

Joyce Tenney
Linda Baker
Caroline Baker
Jennifer Harrison
Jill Randles
Bridget Stone

Chris Steele
Ken Baron
John Fritz
Dan Ritschel
Sayre Posey
Joel DeWyer
Delana Gregg and Lee Hawthorne

- Through whose hands pass every piece of the project, and who keep the operation running