The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching – Elective Community Engagement Classification

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What is the Elective Community Engagement Classification?

- In the early 1970’s the Carnegie Foundation began developing a framework for classifying colleges and universities to support its work in research and policy analysis
  - Grounded in analysis of empirical data from national data sets (primarily from the U.S. Department of Education, National Science Foundation, and the College Board)
  - Work culminated in the 1973 publication of the Carnegie Classification of Higher Education, which has been updated six times
  - Classification has been widely adopted in the study of higher education

- To address the limitations of its general classification, the Foundation began to develop complementary elective classifications
  - Not based on secondary analysis of national data
  - Analysis of attributes not available in national data sets
  - Voluntary participation by institutions
What is the Elective Community Engagement Classification?

- In 2005, the Foundation pilot tested its first elective classification: community engagement
  - Framework for data collection:
    - Foundational indicators: institutional identity and culture and institutional commitment
    - Categorical indicators: curricular engagement and/or outreach and partnerships (institutions had the option of applying for the classification under either or both)
  - 13 colleges and universities, representing diverse kinds of high education institutions, were invited to participate in a pilot study
  - Michigan State University conducted a self-study, submitting a 115 page report to the Foundation
  - On the basis of analysis of the pilot reports and discussion with participants, the Foundation finalized its requirements and criteria for the elective classification
  - The Foundation opened the process and invited applications from across higher education in 2006, 2008, and 2010
What is the Elective Community Engagement Classification?

- To date, 311 U.S. colleges and universities have received the classification, including 13 Michigan institutions:
  - Calvin College (2010)
  - Eastern Michigan University (2008)
  - Finlandia University (2008)
  - Hope College (2010)
  - Lawrence Technological University (2008)
  - Madonna University (2006)
  - Michigan State University (2006)
  - Northern Michigan University (2008)
  - University of Detroit Mercy (2008)
  - University of Michigan (2008)
  - University of Michigan – Flint (2010)
  - Wayne State University (2008)
  - Western Michigan University (2010)
After 2010, the Foundation adopted new strategies to sustain the community engagement classification:

- Convened a national advisory panel
- Contracted with the New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE) to manage the application and assessment processes
- The application was comprehensively revised to create greater specificity in questions/responses
- Enacted a five-year cycle for conferring the classification
- Institutions that received the community engagement classification in 2006 or 2008, and wish to retain it, must apply for re-classification in 2015

2015 re-classification process:

- Focus of the process
  - Document current community engagement commitments and activities
  - Reflect changes such commitments and activities since having last received the community engagement classification
Revision of the Elective Community Engagement Classification Process

• 2015 re-classification process (continued)
  – New framework for data collection
    • One additional foundational indicator (leadership statement) and considerably elaborated documentation requirements (e.g., infrastructure, funding, documentation and assessment, professional development, faculty roles and rewards, student roles and recognition)
    • Categorical indicators remain the same, but applicants are expected to complete both sections
    • New supplemental documentation is required (e.g., student transcripts, student retention, connections to diversity/inclusiveness efforts)
  – Re-classification timeline
    • Applications were made available in May 2013
    • Interested institutions were asked to commit to the process by the end of June 2013
    • Self-study reports must be submitted online by April 15, 2014
    • Participating institutions will be notified of the outcome in December 2014
    • 2015 classification results will be announced in January 2015
Revision of the Elective Community Engagement Classification Process

- Organizing for re-classification at MSU
  - University Outreach and Engagement is organizing the University’s self-study
    - Core planning team: representatives of UOE and the MSU Extension
    - Contributing authors: leaders from across UOE, MSUE, and other MSU departments
    - Review committee: evenly divided group of faculty and community members, including some UOE Senior Fellows
  - The application has been secured
  - Core planning team will meet shortly
    - Tasks will be divided
    - Contributing authors and data sources will be identified
  - Review committee will be convened to discuss the process
  - Contributing authors will gather data and prepare responses
  - Draft of the self-study report will be provided to the review committee
  - Review committee will be convened to provide feedback on the report
  - Report will be revised, submitted, and shared with review committee members
  - All participants will be apprised of the status of the application, once the 2015 classification results are announced
Interested in Participating?

• As mentioned, we will need a few UOE Senior Fellows from both the faculty and community to serve on the review committee
  – Time commitment
    • 2-3 committee meetings between October 2013 and mid-March 2014
    • Individual time for reading and noting comments about the self-study draft
  – If interested, please be sure to express your willingness on the sheet at the check in table before you leave tonight
  – We only need a few folks for this committee, and will follow up with anyone who expresses an interest
References and Further Readings


