



TO The Naropa Community
FROM Self-Study Steering Committee
DATE 12/18/09
RE Self-Study Update

We are writing to keep you informed about the steps we are taking toward our next accreditation site visit (in March 2010) and the comprehensive self-study leading up to it.

The Self-Study Steering Committee recently sent out a broad set of data requests to the President and members of Senior Staff. More specific data requests went to several offices. Before long, some of these data requests will be forwarded to your department or office.

This is one of the most important steps in the self-study. We are requesting a lot of information, some of it very concrete and some of it less so. Hopefully, the open-ended questions will encourage you to engage the accreditation criteria in your own way (and hopefully, the questions are not too vague). Furthermore, we respect your workload, and we kept that in mind as we designed this first round of data requests. We hope you feel enough time to gather information and create the necessary narratives to go with it.

This comprehensive self-study really is a chance for broad self-reflection and inquiry into Naropa's mission, functioning, and capacity for implementing the Strategic Plan. Our sense – and we are curious whether you would agree – is that Naropa staff, faculty, students, and administrators often engage in reflective inquiry, and that this happens on many levels, from chance meetings in a hallway and departmental/office meetings to broad University gatherings and initiatives. We are good at being curious about ourselves and seeking to do a better job. The self-study asks us to take this one more step, gathering evidence in support of our self-reflections. We are being asked to expand our more subjective discussions to include more concrete, objective data and analysis. Along the way, we trust that we will discover new things, as well as deeper appreciation, and we trust that this process will enable us to do our work ever more effectively.

A successful self-study will engage the Naropa community broadly and deeply. We hope that these data requests generate interesting and useful discussions in your department, unit, or office. We look forward to these explorations; the Self-Study Steering Committee is available to help. If you feel you need guidance or support along the way, please call on us.

Best wishes,

John Davis, Chair, Self-Study Steering Committee

Jim Baillie, Reed Bye, Jeanine Canty, Barbara Dilley, Peter Grossenbacher, Harvey Nichols, Annette Soucy, Robert Spellman, Sarah Steward, Candace Walworth