

June 15, 2022

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With respect to governance, we note with favor that, during the Fall 2021 term, the vice president for academic affairs began a planning process for the College's first "academic master plan" with the intention of "achieving a shared vision for best practices in Academic Affairs, including learning outcomes assessment." The Commission is pleased to learn from the report that a Shared Governance Working Group, which included two external consultants, conducted surveys and interviews regarding the governance structure at BCC and, through a process that included sharing three drafts with the campus community, was successful in proposing a structure, definition, and charge for a Shared Governance Council that will have five subcommittees: Academic; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Planning, Innovation, and Effectiveness; Security, Infrastructure, Finance and Technology; and, Student Affairs. We understand that the "formal roll-out" of this new governance model is planned for Spring 2022 with most membership being "temporary" while the College "pilot(s) the model and establish(es) meeting cycles and membership terms."

Commission policy requires an interim (fifth-year) report of all institutions on a decennial evaluation cycle. Its purpose is to provide the Commission an opportunity to appraise the institution's current status in keeping with the policy on Periodic Review. Berkshire Community College is asked, in the Fall 2024 report, to give emphasis to its continued success in addressing the two areas specified for attention in the Spring 2022 report. We look forward, in the Fall 2024 report, to being apprised of BCC's continued progress in "advancing the culture and practice of assessment" and to learning more regarding the "efficacy and satisfaction of the new model" of shared governance.