

Ozarka College

Melbourne, Arkansas

RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE NORTH CENTRAL EVALUATION TEAM

January 11, 2001

Douglas W. Rush, President

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ozarka College acknowledges receipt of the report on the Comprehensive Evaluation for Continued Accreditation on October 16-18, 2000. We agree that it is substantially correct, and we appreciate the professionalism and hard work this report represents on the part of the evaluation team. We appreciate the team's determination that Ozarka College meets the five Criteria for Accreditation, as well as the twenty-four General Institutional Requirements. The institution is already at work to address the concerns identified and to implement many of the team's suggestions for improvement.

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGESS

- 1) *College needs additional staff in critical area.*

The administrative council is developing a list of positions which the College may wish to fill, including a recruiter, development officer, computer help desk technician, student support/tutors, and several possible faculty positions. In addition, duties of some existing persons may be split and recombined into new positions. Before the end of the spring semester, the College expects that all decisions will be made about the number of positions which can be filled with available or expected funding.

- 2) *The team is concerned about the recent decentralization of academic responsibilities and functions. A new division chair structure has just been implemented, and several areas, such as assessment and program evaluation are assigned to non-academic areas.*

The chief academic officer continues to work with the new division chairs to assess the scope of their responsibilities and refine their job description. During the course of the current year, the CAO and division chairs will monitor circumstances and make adjustments to be sure the academic responsibilities and functions are carried out at an appropriate and effective level, as determined by the leadership of the College.

The president is currently considering realignment of responsibilities related to assessment and program evaluation, and it is probable that assessment will be moved under the authority of the CAO.

- 3) *Program evaluation must expand beyond data collection to include analysis and recommendations that will result in continuous quality improvement; also, there is little documentation of the existing curriculum process.*

The CAO and division chairs will study the current program evaluation process and develop ways it can be made more useful for program improvement while staying within the reporting requirements of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

The Curriculum Committee is developing a flow chart outlining the curriculum development process.

4) *If changes within the state legislative appropriations occur, such as performance based funding, of if there is diversion of funds from property or sales tax, and/or a decline in enrollment projections, the College should initiate plans for financial contingency, monitor such actions, and swiftly respond.*

The president and chief fiscal officer monitor all such potential changes in funding. Should any of these eventualities arise, they and the rest of the administrative Council, in consultation with the Faculty Council and Board of Trustees, will act quickly to develop contingency plans and monitor the success of the implementation of those plans.