

REPORT OF REAFFIRMATION/SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE COMMITTEE

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

INTRODUCTION

The University of Kentucky (UK) is composed of twelve colleges, four professional schools, the Graduate School, and Lexington Community College. Enrollment exceeds 30,000 students. UK offers 88 bachelor's, 93 master's, and more than 60 doctoral, specialist, and first professional degree programs. Students may enroll in programs in agriculture, allied health professions, architecture, arts and sciences, business and economics, communications and information studies, education, engineering, fine arts, human environmental sciences, nursing, and social work. In addition, students may select from first professional programs in dentistry, law, medicine, and pharmacy. UK is one of only 59 public universities in the country and the only one in Kentucky to be designated a Research University of the First Class by the Carnegie Foundation.

History

In 1865, Kentucky State Agricultural and Mechanical College was founded as a part of Kentucky University (now Transylvania University). The land-grant provision of the federal Morrill Act of 1862 led to the separation of the College from Kentucky University. In 1908, the College was renamed the State University, Lexington, Kentucky; in 1916, it became the University of Kentucky.

The Agriculture Extension Service was launched in 1910. The Medical Center was organized in 1956; the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, and Dentistry were

established within the next few years. In 1982, the University was reorganized into three chancellor-led units (the Community Colleges, the Medical Center, and the Lexington Campus) under a central administration. The Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997 led to the Kentucky Community and Technical College System such that only the Lexington Community College remained a part of the University of Kentucky.

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of College of Schools (SACS) in 1915 accredited the University of Kentucky. This status has been reaffirmed in approximately ten-year intervals since that time. The most recent reaffirmation of accreditation was December 1992.

The Visiting Committee and Its Report

The Reaffirmation/Substantive Change Committee (the Committee) representing the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools visited the University of Kentucky from April 15 through April 18, 2002. The Committee's responsibilities were twofold: to evaluate the request for substantive change involving off-campus sites and on-line degree programs and to conduct an evaluation of the institutional self-study and total program of the University as required in the process for seeking reaccreditation.

Concurrent with the Committee's visit to the University of Kentucky, the College of Nursing was visited by the National League for Nursing. Therefore, this report does not address accreditation matters with regard to the College of Nursing.

During its visit to campus, the Committee was afforded most cordial treatment and complete cooperation by the UK faculty, staff, and students. Committee members

express appreciation to President Todd and the entire University community for their warm hospitality and extend a special word of thanks to Self-Study Director, Dr. John Piccoro, and his staff for the efficient manner in which all arrangements were handled.

The Committee commends the University of Kentucky's new leadership for the impact they have had in developing a unified campus atmosphere for students, faculty, and staff and for making the campus so welcoming aesthetically.

The reaccreditation aspect of the visit has three purposes: to determine how well the University meets the standards set forth in the *Criteria for Accreditation* of the Commission on Colleges; to render a judgment about the quality of the institution's self-study process as reflected in its self-study report; and to offer advice and suggestions which may be useful to the institution as it pursues improvements in its total program.

Based on the self-study report, interviews, and other documentation, the Committee considered strengths and weaknesses of the institution with particular attention to the rationale in support of suggestions or recommendations. Special attention was given to planning and evaluation activities as well as to documentation of institutional effectiveness. Every effort was made to provide useful advice to the institution.

With respect to the matter of substantive change, the Committee focused on the overall organizational plan by which off-campus and on-line degree programs are offered and whether the institution had adequate resources to support these program activities. Many aspects of the reaffirmation self-study were relevant to this review.

