

**SECTION I**  
**PRINCIPLES AND PHILOSOPHY OF ACCREDITATION**

**Evaluation of the Institution's Self-Study**

With one notable exception the Reaffirmation Committee was generally pleased and impressed with the Comprehensive Institutional Self-Study of the University of Kentucky for the following reasons:

1. Every aspect of the University was covered. Major oversights were not apparent. Some areas, like instructional services, institutional advancement, and externally funded research and contracts, could have been more fully developed.
2. Students, faculty, alumni, administrators, and support staff were involved in the Self-Study. By direct involvement, surveys, public hearings, and other processes, the Self-Study attracted a lot of participation, advice, and counsel.
3. The Self-Study in most instances examined clearly, concisely, and objectively the University of Kentucky and its academic and non-academic programs, offices, and functions. Strengths and weaknesses were described and documented.
4. The institutional planning, evaluation, and effectiveness processes were probed.
5. The University of Kentucky has the ability to cope with the Self-Study suggestions and recommendations. The top leadership will have to make some challenging decisions, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky will have to provide resources for space, equipment, people, and salaries on the basis of institutional priorities.

6. The Self-Study document reflects attention to writing, editing, organization, and analysis.

The Visiting Committee concludes that the Self-Study is deficient in that it does not identify, set forth, and outline procedures for the review and follow-up of suggestions and recommendations in the Self-Study. While the Self-Study report is sprinkled with several recommendations and suggestions, it does not fix responsibility for action and implementation. This observation is especially true of the recommendations related to institutional research, institutional effectiveness, student advising, and systematic collection and use of data in a variety of areas. These points will be covered more specifically in Criteria Section 1.1.

#### **1.1 Institutional Commitment and Responsibilities in the Accreditation Process**

The University of Kentucky is in accord with the requirements of the Criteria for institutional commitment and responsibilities in the accreditation process with one exception. The Visiting Committee does not find in the Self-Study Report or the Self-Study process a carefully crafted commitment, process, plan, and organizational concept to review and follow-up on Self-Study suggestions and recommendations. The Committee does not question the will or desire, but it observes no existing way that is described, published, and in place to do so. For example, a great deal of work must be done in institutional research, in data collection and analysis, in getting some consistency into faculty and administrative

function evaluation, and in development of basic student profiles. (Recommendation 1) The Committee recommends that the University's senior leadership act to devise, create, and implement an institutional plan to follow-up the recommendations and suggestions in the Self-Study Report.

### **1.7 Publications Statement**

The University of Kentucky has an undergraduate catalog, a graduate catalog, and other publications in which statements are placed about regional accreditation. Observation is that most of the statements are consistent with the wording required in Section 1.7 of the Criteria for Accreditation which is as follows:

The University of Kentucky is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award (name specific degrees). (Suggestion 1) The Committee suggests that all statements about regional accreditation in publications of the University of Kentucky be reviewed for consistency with Section 1.7 of the Criteria.

### **1.2 Application of Criteria**

No major institutional changes have occurred at the University of Kentucky since the last reaffirmation. Also, the University of Kentucky is in close association with the Criteria in its off-campus program developments as reflected in appropriate segments of the Visiting Committee report.

### **1.3. Separately Accredited Units**

The University of Kentucky has no units that are subject to separate accreditation by the Commission on Colleges other than the community colleges.

#### **1.4 Conditions of Eligibility**

The Visiting Committee deems the University of Kentucky meets the Conditions of Eligibility for Membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as set forth in Section 1.4 of the Criteria for Accreditation.