The Self-Study Steering Committee met on April 20, 2006 to discuss the accreditation team visit that occurred April 9-12. Everyone was pleased that the process had gone as well as anticipated.

The eleven member accreditation site-visit team met with Marshall University’s Board of Governors at a reception Sunday evening, April 9, in the atrium of the Drinko Library. After an official welcome by President Kopp on Monday morning, the greater part of Monday and Tuesday consisted of intensive visits by team members with individuals representing various campus groups, and others. The remainder of their time during the day was spent in their work room (John Spotts Rm.) and the resource room (Shawkey Rm.) reviewing the materials and supporting evidence provided by Marshall. These rooms were arranged by Jan Fox, Chuck Elliott, and Beth Tappan to maximize the use of electronically accessible evidence. In the evenings, the team members worked on their report in the Board Room of the Radisson Hotel, where they were staying. After their exit interview with President Kopp and the Steering Committee, they left about noon on Wednesday.

The team seemed positive about their time on campus. A few days after the visit, one of the team members was kind enough to write a thank you note, in which she said, “I now understand why you chose to spend your career at MU.”

In the next few weeks, the HLC team will make an official recommendation to the commission in Chicago, which will then vote on Marshall University’s accreditation status. Also involved are two requests focusing on our affiliation status: the approval of an MBA program in Bangalore, India, and the approval of a new degree program – the Doctor of Management Practice Nurse Anesthesia (DMPNA).

The work that remains ahead for the Steering Committee during the next two years is to address both the opportunities for improvement we identified during the self-study process, and the site-visit team’s observations and recommendations, which they will list in the Advancement portion of the report they will submit to The Higher Learning Commission.

As coordinator, I would like to take this opportunity to thank not only the Steering Committee and Criterion Committee members, as well as Beth Tappan, for all their hard work, but I would like to underscore Jan Fox’s extensive work on the electronic resource room, and especially thank Provost Sarah Denman, for her continuous hands-on help. She and President Kopp are to be commended for providing excellent answers to questions posed by site-visit team members during the opening session on Monday morning.

I would also like to thank Lorraine Anderson, Mary Beth Reynolds, Ron Childress, Andy Sikula, Frances Hensley, Sarah Denman, Jan Fox, and Beth Tappan for driving our guests to and from the hotel and campus, between campuses, and to and from airports.

Thanks, too, to the many individuals who read early versions of our self-study report and offered valuable suggestions, to Barbara Hicks who typed (and re-typed) the itinerary for the team’s visit, and to everyone who attended the open meetings with the site-visit team.

Thank you all for making this such a successful and meaningful accreditation visit.

Dr. Leonard Deutsch
Dean, Graduate College