

## **RWC Self Study First Progress Report June 26, 2006**

Raymond Walters College began the Self-Study process for re-accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools during Fall Quarter, 2006. This report is to inform the RWC Community of the progress made during this organizational year.

### **Fall and Winter, 2006**

Associate Dean O'Meara designed the structure, timeline, and roles and responsibilities for the RWC Self-Study process. Dean Straker appointed the Self-Study Coordinator, Professor Marlene Miner. The Steering Committee, comprised of the Self-Study Coordinator, four faculty, two staff members, one student, and one administrator, was formed during Winter Quarter and met to review the criteria, timeline, and tasks to be completed Spring Quarter.

### **Spring, 2006**

In March, Dean Straker, Associate Dean O'Meara, and the Self-Study Coordinator attended the Annual Meeting of the Higher Learning Commission in Chicago. The Steering Committee met weekly to initiate the formation of the five Criterion Committees, to provide guidance to Criterion Committee Chairs, to develop the Self-Study Web Page, and to plan for the 2006-2007 year.

Acting on the recommendations of the Steering Committee, Dean Straker appointed members of the five Criterion Committees and designated the chair of each committee. The Criterion Committees involve 56 members of the RWC Community: 6 students, 36 faculty, 9 staff, and 5 administrators. Each Criterion Committee met during Spring Quarter to become familiar with the process, timeline, criteria and core components. Committees then divided into subcommittees to work on core components.

### **Summer, 2006**

Each Criterion Committee will work on at least one core component during the summer and report preliminary findings and concerns at a joint meeting with the Steering Committee on September 7.

A Self-Study Blackboard Site has been established for Steering Committee and Criterion Committee members. Members can post and access pertinent documents, view sample self-study reports from other institutions, and participate in discussions. The site will serve as a repository of information to be included in the electronic resource room.

The RWC Self-Study Webpage has been created to inform the entire RWC Community of the self-study process, structure, timeline, progress, and upcoming events.

### **Conclusion and Future Plans:**

The self-study process is proceeding according to the established timeline, and the number of faculty, staff, and students already involved in the process is impressive. During the 2006-2007 academic year, the Criterion Committees will perform most of their work for the self study and submit their committee reports Spring Quarter, 2007. All members of the RWC community will have an opportunity to contribute information and opinions via surveys and open forums to be held throughout the year.