

Purdue University (West Lafayette)

V. AREAS OF STRENGTH AND AREAS OF CONCERN

In reaching its recommendation on reaccreditation for Purdue University, the evaluation team had the full range of observations thus far made, including areas of strength and concern as we perceive them. We iterate them here.

Areas of Strength:

1. The continuing high quality of a faculty and staff deeply committed to the excellence and welfare of the University and its programs.

2. An academically engaged and committed student body.

3. A Board of Trustees that takes enormous pride in the University and its quality and that possesses a shared commitment to its excellence and to enhancing its stature as a leading institution in American higher education.

6. The continued strength, quality, and national standing of a substantial number of academic and research programs.

7. The quality of services for students and out of classroom learning experiences in units across the campus.

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8. The attractiveness and utility of the campus, its buildings and its space, that has resulted from effective long-range planning and a commitment to achieving zero deferred maintenance.

9. The continuing support of the Purdue Research Foundation and the deliberate, selective, and entrepreneurial efforts through the Research Park to bring the products of minds to market in a manner appropriate for a distinguished research, and land-grant institution.

10. Internationalization of the University community and expanding experiences of study abroad.

11. The strong continuing and long-term commitment of the University and its components to serving the interests of the people of the State of Indiana.

12. The strong, visionary and uncommonly effective leadership of the President of the University and the deliberate change toward open and engaged collaboration and communication between the administration of the University and its faculty.

Areas of Concern:

1. Securing the long-term funding base and the sources of funds necessary to enable Purdue University to effectively compete with its peer institutions and to contribute as fully as it can to the educational and economic welfare of the people of Indiana.

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2. The research enterprise throughout the institution needs investment of funds, from various and appropriate sources, including review of those generated through indirect cost recovery for this purpose.

3. Assignment of high priority to continuous examination and support for the immediate and long-term library needs of the campus.

4. The relationship between the Commission for Higher Education and the University and the recognition in both principle and practice by the former of the authorized autonomy of the University and the authority of its Board of Trustees for the administration of its programs and in its continuing and active fulfillment of its distinct role as the land-grant university of the state.

5. The capacity to create a more unified computing and networking environment that supports collaboration and communication for instruction, research, and administration across the University.

6. The capacity to provide rapid retrieval of institutional data and information, such as student demographic and performance data to effectively inform decisions in the programs of continuous quality improvement.

7. The lack of policies and procedures to assure coordination of solicitations of potential major

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donors, and the lack of an adequate level of involvement of the Office of Development in decisions related to the hiring of new professional, private fund-raisers in the schools and other institutional units.