



Making the Shoe Fit

The New Criteria and Research U

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Outline of Presentation

- Why use the new criteria?
- Evolution of self-study process
- Interpretation of Criteria 4 & 5
- Organization of self-study report
- Planning the team visit
- Lessons for others



Decision to Use New Criteria

- KU was first research university to use new accreditation criteria
- Seemed like a good idea at the time!



Self-Study Process

- Broad campus participation
- Committees
 - Steering committee
 - Working group
- Collecting evidence
 - Focus groups
 - Interviews
 - Activity mapping



Broad Challenges

- Accreditation criteria or cross-cutting themes?
- Interpretation of criteria
- Necessary repetition or mere redundancy?



Interpreting Criterion 4 *Acquisition, Discovery, & Application of Knowledge*

- Where is research ?
- Life long learning ?
- General education ?
- Assessment ?
- Usefulness of curriculum ?



Interpreting Criterion 5 *Engagement and Service*

- Scope and complexity
- Assessment of need
- Evidence of capacity
- Evidence of value
- Integrative themes versus catalog listings



Interpreting Criterion 5 *Engagement and Service*

**Service and engagement
emerge directly from expertise
in teaching and research**



Organizing the Report Additional Sections

- KU Story
- Structure of KU
- Significant Changes
- Response to 1994 Concerns
- Future Directions
- Academic Profiles



Organizing the Visit

- Group meetings
- Resource room materials
- Use of technology
- Briefing document



Recommendations Research Universities

- Focus on criteria not themes
- Engage in activity mapping exercise
- Use group meeting format
- Consider additional sections
 - Significant changes
 - Academic profiles



Recommendations Research Universities

- Identify the chair early
 - Work to interpret the criteria
 - Clarify expectations
- Insist that team be composed of individuals from like institutions



Recommendations Higher Learning Commission

- Clarify criteria and components
- Provide examples for research universities
- Address need for redundancy