

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, November 9, 2012

DISCUSSION ITEM A:

Defining College Readiness – A Panel Discussion

Background

During the August meeting of the Academic Affairs and Quality Committee, institutional representatives mentioned briefly the process of academic “program review” normally undertaken by postsecondary institutions. Committee members indicated their interest in learning more about program review and suggested that the full commission hear a briefing. The purpose of the panel discussion, therefore, is to expand the commission’s understanding of institutional program-review, the processes employed by Indiana’s public institutions and the uses of the information derived.

Given that the purpose of program review is to examine, assess, and strengthen programs, the reviews tend to focus on the quality of teaching and learning, the quality of faculty research and scholarly/creative activity, and the extent and quality of community services. While additional dimensions of focus normally include cost, contributions to the general-education curriculum and future prospects for the program, the process of program review differs by institution and institutional focus and mission. To ensure breadth of presentation among Indiana’s public institutions, panelists will include representatives of the Indiana University system, Indiana State University and Ivy Tech Community College.