Procedure 2102 – Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

Driven by the desire for continuous quality improvement and the commitment to provide effective and efficient operations and services, the College is bound by the standards of three guiding policy directives (PD): Barton Policy Governance; Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Open Pathway accreditation standards, and the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) Foresight 20/20 Strategic Plan. To responsibly account for the diverse standards of the guiding policies, a comprehensive document of accountability is necessary. Strategic planning is the measure of accountability for formulating the College's approach to mandated PD.

Barton Strategic Planning (BSP): In 2006-2007, and again in 2011-2012, the college underwent development of a five year strategic planning guide. In turn, the strategic planning document serves as the foundation for the development and implementation of the yearly BSP. Each summer, the BSP is evaluated for its ongoing relevance and effectiveness in meeting the Strategic Statements of the five year plan and that in turn support the standards of the influencing PD.

Barton Yearly College Planning (BYCP): Beginning in 2007-2008, the college implemented yearly college planning that is in response to the planning matrix identified in the five year BSP. The BYCP recognizes the strategic goal statements/objectives that are each supported by measurable goals that provide indicators for benchmarks of success. Each summer, the BYCP is evaluated for meeting strategic goals according to successful completion of goal benchmarks.

Barton Policy Governance: The current Board policy governance was developed on the concept of John C. Carver's model of Effective Board Policy Governance. As adopted by the College Trustees, governance policies identify a framework of institutional requirements, ENDs directives, and executive limitations for guiding College operations. Specifically, ENDs number eight is titled Strategic Planning and it stipulates "The College mission will be supported by strategic planning emphasis."

Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Accreditation: In 2008-2009, Barton applied for and received conditional Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) status and initiated steps to meet AQIP accreditation standards and continued HLC accreditation criteria. In same year, AQIP action projects were identified that supported yearly college planning objectives. As a matter of practicality, AQIP accreditation and ensuing action projects are integrated into college planning efforts. College planning and AQIP accreditation measures and initiatives are recognized as being integral components that enhance one another. In 2012-2013, HLC provided Barton with institutional access to a new accreditation format – Open Pathways. This accreditation format allows for a ten year timeframe for accreditation compliance and has greater compatibility with long term strategic planning, in that contributing accrediting elements remain constant for an extended time frame. In 2013, Barton was approved for Open Pathway accreditation.

KBOR Foresight 20/20 Strategic Plan: In response to the KBOR strategic planning document, Barton has established institutional goals that support KBOR strategic policy directive of increasing higher education attainment among Kansans.

Strategic Goals: The BSP identifies four overarching strategic goal statements that reinforce and support the mission and vision of the College.

Yearly College Planning Initiatives: The BYCP contains objectives that derive from the four overarching strategic goal statements and that address the influencing PD.

Performance Indicators: Each objective is operationally defined through measurable performance indicators. Individual performance indicator outcomes serve as the basis for determining whether the associated yearly college planning initiative was effectively addressed.

Based on policy 1102; revised and approved by President on 7/28/14)