Town Hall Meeting #2 -
Middle States Commission on Higher Education
Agenda

- Welcome from Dr. Williams
- Review of Middle States Process
- Review of Timeline
- Recommendations from Workgroups
Welcome from our President
Dr. John Williams
What is the Middle States Commission on Higher Education

- The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is a voluntary, peer-based, non-profit association dedicated to educational excellence and improvement through peer evaluation and accreditation.
Middle States Commission on Higher Education

- In order for students to receive financial aid, institutions must be accredited by Middle States. Middle States is an umbrella accreditor for all of Downstate’s Colleges and Schools.
Middle States is the Overarching Accrediting Body

College of Nursing
College of Health Related Professions
College of Medicine
School of Public Health
School of Graduate Studies
Middle State has 14 Standards:

1. Mission and Goals
2. Planning, Resource Allocation, and Institutional Renewal
3. Institutional Resources
4. Leadership and Governance
5. Administration
6. Integrity
7. Institutional Assessment
14 Standards Continued:

8. Student Admissions and Retention
9. Student Support Services
10. Faculty
11. Educational Offerings
12. General Education (Downstate is Exempt from this Standard)
13. Related Educational Activities
14. Assessment of Student Learning
Work Groups

- Work Groups were established to:
  - Examine our processes and outcomes relative to the *fundamental elements* of each Standard for Accreditation
  - Consider specific questions
  - Utilize specialty accreditation reports, ongoing evaluation procedures and other pertinent data sources
  - Generate a final report
There are 6 Work Groups

They are:

1. Mission, Goals, and Integrity
2. Planning, Resource Allocation, Institutional Renewal; Institutional Resources; and Institutional Assessment
3. Leadership, Governance, and Administration
4. Student Admissions, Retention, and Support Services
5. Faculty
6. Educational Offerings, Related Educational Activities, Assessment of Student Learning
SELF-STUDY TIMELINE:
OUTLINES KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE SELF-STUDY PROCESS
## Fall 2015

- Draft Self-Study completed.
- Draft Self-Study sent to Evaluation Team Chair.
- Downstate prepares Final Draft of Self-Study document.
- President and Downstate’s SUNY Council review Final Draft of Self-Study report.
- Final Self Study Report posted on-line to campus community.
- Team Chair Visits SUNY Downstate (Expected December 2015)
### Spring 2016
- Final Site Team Selected by Middle States
- Final Self-Study distributed to Site-Visit Team and Middle States.

### June – July 2016
- Evaluation Site-Team visit.
- Evaluation Team report to Downstate.
- Downstate response to Middle States.

### July - August 2016
- Middle States Commission Action.
Work Group 1: Mission, Goals, and Integrity

- Dr. Pascal J. Imperato (Chair) (SPH) Dean and Distinguished Service Professor, School of Public Health
- Dr. Pamela Sass (Co-Chair) (COM) Vice Dean, College of Medicine

STANDARD 1: MISSION AND GOALS

Recommendations:

- To ensure continued relevance and appropriate emphasis, schedule regular reviews of the mission statement, engaging broad stakeholder involvement. The new round of strategic planning process about to begin represents a good opportunity to review our mission, vision, values, and goals.
- Develop a central database of outreach and community engagement activities to better document and highlight this aspect of Downstate’s mission.

(continued)
Work Group 1:
Mission, Goals, and Integrity

STANDARD 6: INTEGRITY

Recommendations:

- Working with Human Resources, the Division of Student Affairs, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Office of Faculty Affairs and Development, and other offices as appropriate, review strategies to ensure consistent application of campus policies and ethic codes.

- Consider developing a section devoted to ethics-related policies in Downstate’s online Policy Library.
Work Group 2: Planning, Resource Allocation, Institutional Renewal; Institutional Resources; and Institutional Assessment

- Ms. Dorothy Fyfe (Chair)
  Associate Vice President for Policy and Planning

- Dr. Audrée Bendo (Co-Chair)
  Distinguished Service Professor of Anesthesiology and Director of Neurosurgical Anesthesiology; Anesthesiology Residency Program Director and Vice Chair for Education, College of Medicine

STANDARD 2: PLANNING, RESOURCE ALLOCATION, AND INSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL

STANDARD 3: INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES

STANDARD 7: INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT

Recommendations:

- Continue to review and strengthen the interrelationships among institutional, operational, and college and school planning goals.

(continued)
Work Group 2: Planning, Resource Allocation, Institutional Renewal; Institutional Resources; and Institutional Assessment

Recommendations (continued):

• Improve awareness at all levels of the budget allocation process, and of processes associated with tracking and monitoring expenses and expense planning.

• Use the Downstate 2020 planning initiative to publicize new initiatives, highlight achievements, and create a new sense of campus-wide commitment to Downstate.

• Continue to be a leader in responding to New York State and the nation’s health professions workforce needs.

• Continue to be a leader in providing access to health professional education; continue to assess how Downstate may further contribute to increasing diversity in the health professions.

• Continue to assess how to streamline and improve information sharing and processes across the institution.
Work Group 3:
Leadership, Governance, and Administration

- Dr. Kathleen Powderly (Chair)
  Director, John Conley Division of Medical Ethics and Humanities

- Dr. Joyce Sabari (Co-Chair)
  Associate Professor and Chair of Occupational Therapy, College of Health Related Professions

STANDARD 4: LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE
STANDARD 5: ADMINISTRATION

Recommendations:

- Continue to review and implement best practices for efficient operations, including assessment of IT and other tools needed to streamline operations.

(continued)
Recommendations (continued):

- Advance employee innovation and identify strategies to promote high performance.
- Continue to review campus communications systems, with the goal of strengthening communications on campus and raising Downstate’s external profile.
- Support campus and individual college and school governance structures, with the goal of promoting participatory campus processes, strengthening committee structures, and developing a campus culture of collaboration, openness, and respect.
- Consider strengthening Downstate’s data warehouse capabilities.
Work Group 4: Student Admissions, Retention, and Support Services

- Dr. Judie LaRosa (Chair)
  Vice Dean and Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, School of Public Health

- Mr. James Newell (Co-Chair)
  Director of Student Financial Aid

STANDARD 8: STUDENT ADMISSIONS AND RETENTION

Recommendations:

- As part of the website redesign initiative, review the academic component of the website for ease of use and alignment with best practices, including social messaging. Evaluate additional IT tools that could improve operational efficiencies and promote engagement with prospective students.

(continued)
Work Group 4: Student Admissions, Retention, and Support Services

STANDARD 8: STUDENT ADMISSIONS AND RETENTION

Recommendations (continued):

- Continue to develop community-based programs with local high schools and colleges, with the goal of encouraging diverse, well-prepared applicants to Downstate’s programs.

STANDARD 9: STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Recommendations:

- Continue to strengthen and evolve the existing framework of student support services, with the goal of supporting student success.

- Annually assess services offered by the Office of Academic Development against outcomes measures, to ensure that students are taking advantage of services offered, and that services are appropriately tailored to professional health education.
Work Group 5: Faculty

- Dr. Rauno Joks (Chair)
  Chief and Program Director, Division of Allergy & Immunology; Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, College of Medicine

- Dr. Ronnie Lichtman (Co-Chair)
  Professor and Chair, Midwifery Program, College of Health Related Professions

STANDARD 10: FACULTY

Recommendations:

- As part of the faculty development initiative, continue to encourage doctoral preparation for faculty who do not hold the terminal degree in their profession.

(continued)
STANDARD 10: FACULTY

Recommendations (continued):

• Create a standardized faculty evaluation and development tool to be used in all colleges and schools, with support to both those evaluating and those evaluated, in order to assess faculty development progress and goals together with metrics to monitor in an on-going and supportive manner.

• Develop formal, best practices faculty mentoring programs tailored to the needs of each college and school, with the goal of enhancing faculty retention and advancement.

• Establish a half-day, orientation and reception for new faculty to welcome new colleagues to the Downstate community, and to promote networking and the establishment of a community of peers.
Work Group 6: Educational Offerings, Related Educational Activities, Assessment of Student Learning

- Dr. Daisy Cruz-Richman (Chair)
  Dean and Professor, College of Nursing

- Dr. Madiha Akhtar (Co-Chair)
  Assistant Dean, Student Affairs

STANDARD 11: EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS
STANDARD 13: RELATED EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS
STANDARD 14: ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING

Recommendations:

- Continue to build the strength of Downstate’s course offerings through continuous assessment and improvement in course offerings.

- Encourage innovative delivery of course content that combines enhanced technological modalities with the best of in-person, hands-on course instruction.

(continued)
Recommendations (continued):

- Strengthen student learning assessment by strengthening the culture of measurement and accountability.
- Continue to assess the evolving landscape in the health professions with the goal of incorporating best practices into program offerings and ensuring continued relevancy of course offerings.
- Continue to monitor resource issues and legal and regulatory policies on distance learning, and periodically assess whether dedicated distance learning offerings fit within institutional goals and planning exercises.
Work Group 6: Educational Offerings, Related Educational Activities, Assessment of Student Learning

STANDARD 11: EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS
STANDARD 13: RELATED EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS
STANDARD 14: ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING

Recommendations (continued):

- Develop a dashboard for student learning assessment outcomes.
- Review software tools to collect data and strengthen assessment measurement, and to compare institutional outcomes to peer and aspirant academic health centers.
- Consider best practices to ensure data integrity in developing outcomes measures.
- Consider extending the College of Medicine’s “Outcomes Assessment Dean” concept to Downstate’s four other colleges and schools, as appropriate.
Questions?
Thank you for your time and commitment to this important endeavor!

All the information shared here today can be found online.