

Additional information received 10-9-09 from Dana Thomas regarding Accreditation Core Themes:

Alternative Form of Accreditation Core Themes

Given the accreditation theme survey responses and some perceived weaknesses of the current proposed themes, I asked Jackie Stormer of Marketing and Communications to wordsmith the current themes. She did so and Pete Pinney and I made a few revisions and list these below. Jackie identified a key word for each theme area. She brings a background of communicating to the public perspective to this discussion - what we say is sometimes not well understood outside UAF, e.g., engage and advanced study.

In addition, I spoke to Ron Baker of the Northwest Commission yesterday. He suggested the themes listed in the current motion overlap too much (e.g., scholarship in both Alaska Native theme and in research theme), over emphasize Alaska (appears in 4 themes), and are overly complex (we have gone too far from the original set proposed by the Provost). However, the themes are ours - the commission does not want to impose its view on us. I have incorporated my perspective based on his suggestions in the alternative themes given below.

Based on the above an alternative list of themes is proposed and I would like the faculty senate and staff council to consider this alternative approach at their meeting - this is your call of course.

Educate: Baccalaureate and Graduate Programs

Ron Baker of the commission told me the inclusion of "doctoral" was superfluous - he suggested practical and theoretical graduate education if this one stands alone - we can emphasize the doctorate in the preamble, theme description or in the objectives for that theme. The AA could be rolled in here or in the Prepare theme below with some rewording.

Prepare: workforce development certificate and associate programs

We could state "preparatory and workforce development programs of two years or less" An alternative to Prepare would be Train (I expect this to be unpopular).

The two themes above could be combined into

Educate: Programs from workforce endorsements through the doctorate (could add = to meet the needs of the state, the nation and the world) OR "A broad array of educational and workforce development programs." Combining all the programs into a single theme would be my preference; otherwise we would likely split out graduate education again and I prefer fewer themes so that service and research/creative activity are not undervalued based on the number of themes.

Discover: Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity with an emphasis on the North and its peoples

shortened purposely - (an alternative to Discover is Advance -as in Advance knowledge in UAF's mission statement)

Include: Alaska Native and Rural Education

Engage or Involve could be substituted for Include but engage may be a poor choice given Serve below

Serve: Public service, lifelong learning and outreach across Alaska