Process Management

Learning Centered Processes

a(1) Learning centered processes grow out of the University's mission and strategic directions. Generally they lie in the purview of the faculty and the Office of Academic Affairs and are tailored to fit the needs of the various segments of our student body and the other stakeholders served by the institution.

Key learning centered processes include regular classroom instruction with a variety of specialized learning activities: lecture, group work, use of technology, problem-based learning, active learning, classroom assessment. This primary learning centered process is supplemented by a number of others: learning communities, homework, coops, internships, labs, service learning activities. Cocurricular learning centered processes supported primarily by Student Affairs include participation in student government, student clubs and organizations, athletics, tutoring services, career exploration including mock interviews, resume building and preparation of application letters, campus and community lectures, theatre, band, choir, and art shows. The residence hall system offers learning centered processes in governance, disciplinary procedures, education programs in such areas as personal safety, safe sex, alcohol and drug abuse education, and community service. Residence assistants (RAs) mentor other students, review campus rules and regulations, and serve as role models for students living in the halls.

The advising relationship, a learning centered process, serves as our AQIP Action Project that addresses Helping Students Learn. The mission of academic advising at WNMU is to assist students in relating their needs, interests, values, abilities, and goals to the educational programs of the University. In support of the University's mission statement, academic advising recognizes the need to address the diverse cultural and academic background of its students, while promoting academic excellence. Successful advising contributes to a significant goal of a college education—developing mature and self-directed students, capable of thinking, judging and making appropriate decisions.

These processes create value (Figure 6.1-1) for the organization by facilitating retention, generating school spirit, and improving relationships between stakeholders.

Specific learning centered processes are created to meet educational, developmental, and well-being needs and to maximize student success. For example, student developmental needs are addressed through the use of the Compass test to place students in the appropriate reading, writing, and math classes. The student success courses enable students to improve their ability to deal with new experiences and enhance the skills needed to obtain their educational goal.

Table 6.1-1 - Value Creation for Key Stakeholders				
Key Stakeholders	Value Created			
Parents	Enhancement other sources of support and increased knowledge of the University.			
Feeder schools	Good education for potential students. Graduates of education program exhibit high standards and model good learning centered processes.			
Community/ Region/local tax payers/citizens	Betterment of Society. More knowledgeable citizens are created. Highly qualified students in good paying jobs generate more tax revenue, which enables more and better services to the community.			
State Agencies including Governing Board Employers	More knowledgeable citizens. Appropriate use of tax dollars. Return on their investment. Well-qualified workers.			
Alumni	Increased pride in their alma mater. Confidence in the quality of their education. Increased desire to continue to support their alma mater.			
Faculty and Staff	Improved knowledge of general students and major students. Pride in the student body. Building of strong personal relationships with advisees.			

The learning communities provide a support group of students, instructors, and peer leaders to assist students in adjusting to the higher education environment and being successful in their classes. The advising relationship provides them a mentor and a one—to-one relationship with a concerned representative of the institution. The needs of special needs students to obtain an education that would otherwise be unobtainable are addressed by such learning aids as note takers, signers, readers, and adaptive technology.

Research has shown that students who receive good advising, and participate in learning communities and campus activities are retained at a much higher rate than those who do not. Therefore, the aforementioned activities are designed to maximize student success.

a(2) The key learning centered process requirements are determined by understanding that people learn in different ways. This understanding requires us to provide a variety of learning experiences. The learning requirements are matched to the need of the learner by the skill of the teacher through such mechanisms as classroom assessment, student evaluations, and focus groups. Faculty and staff provide input into the requirements in the annual evaluation process, the various faculty and staff committees, conference attendance, and incorporation of new teaching methods and technologies. Accreditation self studies and visits and review of best practices at other institutions by faculty and administration provide input.

Advisory groups and employers in the various academic areas also help determine key learning centered process requirements.

The key requirement for all the learning processes is their ability to contribute to improved learning. To accomplish this requirement, an institution needs good diagnosis and assessment tools, qualified instructors and student affairs professionals, and appropriate instructional aids. Faculty and staff need training to enable them to use the tools and instructional aids and professional development to keep their content knowledge current. The annual evaluation process is a measure of the extent to which the preparation is appropriate. When new faculty and staff are hired, the job descriptions are carefully crafted to delineate the learning centered processes they will be involved in, and the most qualified candidate is hired.

WNMU addresses individual differences in student learning rates and styles initially by proper placement based on testing and long-term by offering a variety of learning centered processes. We offer varied forms of testing: oral, written, project based. Students with diagnosed ADA concerns are accommodated. Students can choose among face-to-face classes, ITV classes, and Web based classes. Classes are taught in 50 minutes, 90 minutes, and three hours time frames. We offer classes in independent study, directed study, and individual lesson formats. Provision is made for make-up classes.

Peer leaders who act as role models share what they learn with each other and with peer leader coordinators. The Title V learning community instructional teams are composed of the two faculty teaching the linked courses, the peer leader, and a librarian. They meet twice a month to analyze student issues and concerns and discuss what is working with these students. The minutes of their meetings are shared with the learning community coordinator and the Freshman Seminar coordinator, who then use this learning in appropriate ways. A study was done of the Title V students who participated in a Freshman Seminar, comparing their grades and persistence to a matched group who did not participate. Results of this study led the Faculty Senate to vote to require the student success seminar for all incoming freshmen enrolled in four year degree programs.

a(3) Figure 6.1-2 describes how processes are designed to meet key student and stakeholder requirements.

Training is provided to faculty and staff in the use of new technology, both hardware and software. Sequencing and linkages among educational offerings are addressed at the department level. Course pre-requisites are published in the catalog, explained by advisors, and embedded in the student information system. The degree plan ensures courses are taken in the appropriate sequence and at the appropriate time.

Figure 6.1.2	Process Design to Very Dequipements			
Processes	Process Design to Key Requirements			
rrocesses	How Processes Meet Key			
Regular classroom	Requirements • Hire teachers with appropriate teaching			
instruction	credentials			
	Enroll students in classes on the basis of			
	placement testing			
	Instructors employ appropriate instructional			
	aids Instructors employ appropriate assessment			
	techniques to measure student progress			
	Provide Faculty development opportunities			
	locally and elsewhere			
	Visit deans and chairs of non-tenured			
	faculty Conduct annual evaluations of the			
	teacher/faculty member			
	Students evaluate the classes			
	Provide training sessions as needed			
Learning	All of the above regular classroom instruction activities apply			
communities	 instruction activities apply Provide special training in collaborative 			
	teaching			
	Provide special training for working with			
	peer leaders			
	Provide special training for teaching the student success course			
	Trained evaluators conduct classroom			
	assessment activities			
Homework	All of the above regular classroom			
	instruction activities apply			
	Provide special training through the Center for Teaching and Learning (CETAL) to			
	for Teaching and Learning (CETAL) to address homework assignment			
	requirements: computer literacy, interview			
	techniques, etc.			
Co-ops and	Faculty supervises in conjunction with			
Internships	employers			
	 Specify learning outcomes for students. Select employers carefully 			
	Students do a summative evaluation of their			
	experience			
Labs	All of the above regular classroom			
	instruction activities apply			
	Provide hands on supervised lab experiences			
	Stress adequate safety precautions			
Service learning	All of the above regular classroom			
	instruction activities apply			
	Faculty keeps current with service learning			
	opportunities in the community Make faculty aware of the need to			
	incorporate reflection on the activity by the			
	student			
Co-curricular	Hire people with appropriate experience			
learning processes	and/or professional training pertinent to			
Student government	 their position Ensure that people possess skill in fostering 			
 government Student Clubs 	individual and group learning processes			
and	through evaluation and training			
organizations	Ensure personnel are able to provide			
• Athletics	adequate feedback to students on their			
• Tutoring	participation and progress Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and			
Career exploration	community members collaborate in			
Campus and	planning, organizing, implementing and			
community	evaluating these activities			
lectures	Students learn the importance of all stakeholders, i.e., they must market.			
• Theatre	stakeholders, i.e., they must market activities to the community to secure			
Band	support for the program			
 Choir 				
Art shows	The institution provides appropriate support in terms of supplies, equipment, and			

facilities
Hire people with appropriate experience and/or professional training pertinent to their position
Provide extensive training for residence
assistants (RAs) to conduct educational
programs and provide guidance to the
students in establishing their own
governance, discipline, policies, and
procedures
 Evaluate RAs each semester and require
them to meet minimum criteria in terms of
grades, deportment, and involvement with
their students
Give special emphasis to RA knowledge
concerning campus support services
Hire full time professional staff with
appropriate counseling/advising
backgrounds
Provide faculty and staff special on-going
training in advising to augment full time advisors
Advisors employ appropriate advising
strategies to include career exploration,
developmental advising, intrusive advising,
use of placement information and general
knowledge of institutional support services
 Advisors employ appropriate assessment
techniques to measure student progress
Students evaluate advisors
Provide targeted advisor training sessions as needed
Place special emphasis on multicultural
sensitivity training
Advising Handbook provides ready access
to essential information

The following factors are used to improve cycle time, efficiency, and effectiveness in the design of our learning-centered processes:

- Course matrix used to minimize conflicts.
- Required courses offered at a variety of times.
- Course rotations.
- Creative course scheduling offered to meet needs of customers.
- Adjunct faculty when necessary.
- Regents requirements for new degree programs published.
- C&I guidelines disseminated.
- Space utilization studied.
- Curriculum reviewed.
- Collaborative degrees developed.
- A common core of general education courses.
- Exceptions to university policies made with prior approval when appropriate.
- Out-of-state tuition not charged in the summer.
- Classes offered in extended learning centers.
- Learning center staff trained to perform admissions, registrar, business, and library functions to expedite student services. Each learning center has own technology staff.
- Banner student information system minimizes entry errors and supports faster response rates.

a(4) The key summative and formative performance measures in Figure 6.1-3 are used for the control and improvement of our learning centered processes:

All instructors distribute syllabi for their classes to their students. An electronic copy is filed with the P/VPAA. All courses have homework, regular tests, or projects. Instructors and advisors hold regular office hours and issue mid-term grades for students with D and F averages. In co-curricular activities, evaluations are collected after each event to do a formative measure. The NL survey of student satisfaction gives a segmented as well as an overall summative assessment. The NSSE provides summative views of how effectively faculty and staff engage students in learning processes. Student retention and graduation rates are a summative measure of the success of learning centered processes.

Figure 6.1-3 – Key Performance Measures for					
Learning Centered Processes					
	Formative	Summative Measures			
	Measures				
•	Portfolios	•	Standardized Test Scores		
•	Mid-terms		(ACT, CAAP, etc.)		
•	Quizzes	•	College Level Exam		
•	Internships		Program		
•	Field Exp.	•	Student Surveys		
•	Placement	•	Retention Rates		
	Testing	•	Final Grades and Grade		
•	Early Alert		Distribution Studies		
•	Class	•	Graduation Rates		
	attendance	•	Learning assessments in		
•	Degree Audits		majors		
•	Freshman	•	Student Evaluations		
	Seminar	•	Employer Satisfaction Rates		
	feedback	•	Program Review Measures		
•	Focus Groups	•	Licensure and certification		
	_		rates and exam scores		

Formative assessment of the faculty and staff role in regard to learning-centered processes is a part of annual evaluation. Summative assessment for faculty-related processes is done as a part of the program review. Also as individual faculty come up for promotion and/or tenure, a comprehensive assessment is conducted in regard to their teaching and advising roles.

Comment cards placed in the suggestion boxes around campus offer other suggestions which are incorporated into learning centered processes as appropriate. Feedback from student evaluations of courses and of advising is examined by the faculty member and incorporated into future teaching or advising. Feedback done in conjunction with accreditation self studies, advisory boards, benchmarking studies, consultants, and program review is also used to modify learning centered processes.

a(5) Learning-centered processes are examined as to their effectiveness and revised as needed. For example, the Compass test is used to determine each student's proficiency in writing, reading, and math to effectively place individual students into the appropriate basic skills classes. Examination of retention and attrition rates signaled the need to create methodologies to increase retention. In response, WNMU developed and implemented learning communities and centralized advising for new freshmen. Follow up studies show that students who participated in learning communities and the linked student success class made higher GPA's and were retained at a higher rate than those students who did not participate.

To keep processes current with educational needs and direction, we continually assess the courses and programs with feedback from advisory groups, state agencies, accreditation bodies, state standards and benchmarks for teacher education programs, comparison to best practices as highlighted in professional literature, conferences, and campus visits. When state agencies indicated a need for more social workers, especially in the Four Corners area, our social work faculty responded by doing a needs assessment and working with Dinè College and UNM-Gallup to implement a collaborative degree in which our partners teach the general education courses and WNMU faculty teach the social work courses. Delivering this degree completion program will entail some courses being taught via ITV and others online. One faculty member will relocate to the area to serve as a face-to-face contact, to teach, and to advise students. Other faculty will travel to the area at least once when they offer mediated instruction. Faculty will pay special attention to Native American culture and learning styles because the student body will be predominately Navajo and Zuni.

Improvements in learning-centered processes are shared with other organizational units through annual poster sessions hosted by the Writing-Across-the-Curriculum Program and Assessment Committee, in Faculty Senate standing committees, meetings that have representation from all departments, PMTs, and other ad hoc committee meetings. Letters to the student body, articles in the student newspaper and the *WestWind*, staff newsletters, papers presented at state, regional, and national conferences are additional ways improvements are shared.

Support Processes

a(1) Taking care of students and fostering student learning is a priority. However, WNMU must also provide support services that facilitate the educational process and acknowledge key student and stakeholder needs related to them. The organization determines its key support processes with its mission and vision in mind and based on services essential to providing a quality learning environment. Key support processes are listed in Figure 6.2-1.

a(2) To determine student and stakeholder needs related to support processes, we evaluate feedback or concerns expressed in surveys of students and employees and input from the BOR, EC, Cabinet, AQIP teams, campus governance groups, departments, and the community. The VPBA, to whom most support services report, meets often with campus groups to better understand changing needs related to these processes. Needs also surface as a result of SP processes or as strategies develop.

External bodies also define some key requirements for support processes. As legislative, CHE, accrediting body, and other external sources change their requirements we must respond appropriately. Process owners provide another source of key input into determining support process needs.

Overall, the key requirements are fair, honest, respectful, and equitable treatment of all student and stakeholder users of services, clear communication, user-friendly service, flexibility and openness to new ideas, timeliness, and knowledge and competence about the service and its most effective provision. Figure 6.1-2 identifies key operational requirements for specific services.

a(3) Process design to address key requirements varies according to the breadth of the design or change. Longerterm projects, such as Banner software implementation, involve cross-functional teams. Shorter-term process improvements, such as a process design to improve communication and application turnaround related to financial aid, utilized a PMT. As a result of survey feedback, employee initiative, EC or VP request, process owners are involved in process design.

For example, the efforts to improve the registration process incorporated cross-functional teams, PMTs, and process-owner initiated improvements. Student surveys indicated strong student dissatisfaction with the registration process. The previous registration process was cumbersome, time consuming, and caused students to run all over the campus. Students' needs, together with the University's inability to maintain University records efficiently and effectively, led to a decision to replace the administrative software package with the SCT Banner system.

Through Banner, we offer Web registration for the student's convenience. Students can complete an application, register, apply for and track financial aid, and enroll in a deferred payment contract all online. Faculty can advise and register students online, and all administrative functions share one central database, making processing a student more efficient and accurate. As a result, student satisfaction in this area improved beyond national norms (Figure 7.2-4).

Process teams incorporate efficiency and effectiveness factors in a number of different ways. Continuing with the Banner example mentioned earlier, the new administrative

software supported student and other stakeholder needs by identifying a single source of data entry, providing desktop retrieval of information; eliminating the need for students, faculty, and staff to visit a variety of offices to obtain information; providing more timely access to data; and enhancing its accuracy. These changes impact cost in a desirable manner. To ensure effective usage of the system, training remains an on going component of facilitating Banner's use.

Concurrent with Banner implementation, a number of shorter-term process changes occurred largely through PMTs and initiatives from individual offices. For example, PMTs in the financial aid area developed numerous improvements, to include communicating more effectively with students by instituting a process of issuing progress letters that are sent out detailing the student's status and giving direction on what to do next. This change greatly decreased the number of students arriving on campus when classes began without appropriate financial resources secured.

Evaluation of MOEs during the SP retreat and at other times provides feedback on whether the expected results are being achieved.

a(4) Key MOEs are identified in Table 6.2-2. Some reflect in-process measures; others are more summative in nature.

Successful day-to-day operation of key support processes rests with the manager responsible for the area. The VPBA meets with directors of these areas as needed to be appraised of any extraordinary circumstances or issues that interfere with effective and efficient operations. Third-party providers meet with the VPBA on a weekly basis; she also meets with bookstore personnel as needed.

a(5) Support process costs are budgeted, monitored, and evaluated against University trend data. Where data are available, evaluation also occurs against statewide peers. NACUBO benchmarking standards are also used for evaluation purposes. WNMU complies with all appropriate external regulatory requirements.

Whenever possible, WNMU avoids errors and rework by building rules to prevent inaccurate input into the monitoring systems.

a(6) The beginning point for improvement rests with the decision cycle; however, it also includes customer input, trend analyses, benchmarking, review of research reports, professional conference attendance, and training and educational opportunities. Interactions with peer groups and professional organizations provide information on best practices and up-and-coming trends, which in turn inform the SPP and help leadership identify needed changes.

As potential changes are identified, they are shared in many ways including EC, Cabinet, VP Councils, and through Mustang Express announcements. In most cases, these communication methods allow opportunities for feedback before final changes to the support processes are undertaken. Communication, training, and educational opportunities support reduced variability within process applications.

Table 6.2-2 – Key Performance Measures Related to						
Suj	Support Processes					
Process	Key Performance Measures					
	(MOEs)					
Registration	Student satisfaction					
	 Length of lines 					
Purchasing	Employee satisfaction					
	 Procurement card issuance 					
	 Average turnaround time on 					
	purchase orders					
Financial, Budget	Fund balances					
and Accounting	Budget conformance to CHE					
	guidelines					
Maintenance	Energy usage					
	 Average cost per gross square 					
	foot					
	 Request backlog 					
Safety/	 Student satisfaction 					
Security	 Employee satisfaction 					
	 Injury and accident Rates 					
Human Resources/	 Grievances 					
Payroll	 Workers compensation 					
	claims					
Mail	 Student satisfaction 					
	 Employee satisfaction 					
Ed Rec/Student	Student satisfaction					
Activities/Intramurals						
Bookstore	Student satisfaction					
	 Faculty satisfaction 					
Information	Distance education support					
Technology						

Table 6.2-1 - Support Services, Guiding Policies, and Student and Stakeholder Expectations						
Process	Services Provided	Policy Guiding Service	Student/Stakeholder Expectations			
Registration	 Admit and register students Process applications and disburse financial aid, book checks, refunds Student payments of tuition and fees Maintain student academic files 	CHE guidelines Federal regulations Bookstore policy WNMU internal policy SCT Banner	 Timely services Accurate records Limited standing in line (speedy process) Friendly personnel Internal coordination and flexibility 			
Purchasing	 Process purchase orders Issue/Monitor procurement cards Process formal bids Process requests for proposals 	NM State Statute WNMU internal policy Needs of campus community Federal regulations	 Timely acquisition of needed goods Accurate order fulfillment Knowledgeable and courteous personnel Efficiency in purchasing 			
Financial, Budget and Accounting	 Process budget revisions Students invoices Facilitate requests for funding Account for all university funds Cash checks 	GASB and FASB State statutes and Federal regulations Banner functionality WNMU internal policy Needs of campus community	 Timely processing of budget revisions/payment of invoices Budget planning and analysis Accurate records Knowledgeable and courteous personnel Responsive to needs for specialized reports 			
Maintenance	 Clean buildings Process work orders Perform emergency repairs Manage capital project Groomed outdoor appearance 	 WNMU internal policy Needs of campus community Contract with Sodexho (3rd party provider) 	 Clean and safe facilities Attractive campus grounds Timely responses Minimum disruption to classes or mobility Commitment to campus vision, mission, values 			
Safety/ Security	Provide general security Enforce safety regulations Enforce law enforcement Enforce WNMU policies	State law Federal law WNMU internal policy Needs of campus community	 Safe and secure campus Knowledgeable of investigative procedures Fair and equitable treatment Available when needed 			
Human Resources/ Payroll	 Prepare recruit/hire Prepare annually contracts Prepare benefits administration Prepare payroll Maintain employment files 	 FLSA State statute WNMU internal policy NMPSIA guidelines Needs of campus community 	 Accurate records Knowledgeable and friendly personnel Timely issuance of contracts Timely issuance of hiring related documents Flexible within policy guidelines 			
Mail	 Process outgoing mail Receive mail FedEx/Overnight Services Central Shipping and Receiving Bulk mail 	 US Post Office regulations FedEx regulations WNMU internal policy Needs of campus community 	 Prompt, accurate delivery services Timely receipt of mail and ordered items Friendly service Stamp purchase availability Bulk mailings 			
Ed Recreation and Intramurals	Coordinate activities Monitor recreational facilities	WNMU internal policy	Adequate facilities and equipmentSafe facilities			
Bookstore	Supply books and supplies	 Contract with Follett (3rd party provider) WNMU internal policy 	 Competitive prices Availability of used books Availability of WNMU logo items Commitment to campus vision, mission, values 			
Information Technology	 Phone and e-mail service Internet and Data connectivity Cable Distance education support 	 Federal and State regulations Cable provider policies WNMU internal policy Need of campus community 	 Minimum disruption of phone and internet services Sufficient equipment to meet demands Similar services regardless of location Collaboration with other state universities Rapid access to high priority information 			