

The Nature of EER Framing Questions

CSU, Chico chose to use the Educational Effectiveness Review as a means of systematically validating its beliefs and associated actions regarding its special learning environments. Commenting on the selection of the themes to be explored in the EER, the Proposal Review Committee noted:

5. The University has selected three integral and challenging themes to explore in the Educational Effectiveness Review. The Committee encourages the University to pursue these themes as scholarly research inquiries, including the development of framing questions and the examination and evaluation of student learning results and outcomes where appropriate.
6. It would be helpful to know more about what areas will be new research for the University, and what areas will be built on as continuing issues for study.

Recent inquiries from EER team leaders suggest the need to further define the nature of the ‘framing questions’ and ‘scholarly research inquiries.’

Other clues to what WASC may mean with these terms are:

- WASC on the Educational Effectiveness Review:
 - ✓ The primary purpose of the Educational Effectiveness Review is to invite sustained engagement by the institution on the extent to which the institution fulfills its educational objectives.
 - ✓ It is expected that the faculty will be deeply involved in the design and implementation of the Educational Effectiveness Review Report and review process, as well as others in the institution connected to the issues of Educational Effectiveness.
 - ✓ The Educational Review Process is intended to enable institutions to explore topics or themes that are related to the institution’s own priorities and needs, with a special emphasis on the assessment and improvement of student learning.
- In PRC’s letter to CSUC: “The success of the Proposal would seem to depend on active leadership and broad engagement of the faculty, with wide dissemination of results for further faculty discussion.” *The notion of faculty engagement has been a recurring theme in many of the WASC materials. Indeed, each standard and criterion for review has associated with it so-called Questions for Institutional Engagement.*