**Turtle 1**

**Governance**

**Summary:**

This group is responsible for explaining how the college’s governance structure and board support and integrate the college’s core themes. This team will write the portion of the report that addresses how the college demonstrates an effective and well-understood system of governance where the decision-making structure gives consideration to the views of faculty, staff, administration, and students in the areas in which they have direct interest. This team will also report on how the governing board establishes, reviews, and revises institutional policies. In addition, the team will report on how the board is empowered to select and evaluate the chief executive officer, and how they delegate authority and responsibility to the president to implement and administer board-approved policies. Finally, this group will report on how the college monitors its compliance with the Northwest Commission’s Standards for Accreditation.

**The group will address in the written report the following specific accreditation standards related to governance:**

2.A.1

The institution demonstrates an effective and widely understood system of governance with clearly defined authority, roles, and responsibilities. Its decision-making structures and processes make provision for the consideration of the views of faculty, staff, administrators, and students on matters in which they have a direct and reasonable interest.

2.A.3

The institution monitors its compliance with the Commission’s Standards for Accreditation, including the impact of collective bargaining agreements, legislative actions, and external mandates.

2.A.4

The institution has a functioning governing board\* consisting of at least five voting members, a majority of whom have no contractual, employment, or financial interest in the institution. If the institution is governed by a hierarchical structure of multiple boards, the roles, responsibilities, and authority of each board—as they relate to the institution—are clearly defined, widely communicated, and broadly understood.

2.A.5

The board acts only as a committee of the whole; no member or subcommittee of the board acts on behalf of the board except by formal delegation of authority by the governing board as a whole.

2.A.6

The board establishes, reviews regularly, revises as necessary, and exercises broad oversight of institutional policies, including those regarding its own organization and operation.

2.A.7

The board selects and evaluates regularly a chief executive officer who is accountable for the operation of the institution. It delegates authority and responsibility to the CEO to implement and administer board-approved policies related to the operation of the institution.

2.A.8

The board regularly evaluates its performance to ensure its duties and responsibilities are fulfilled in an effective and efficient manner.