**Turtle 4**

Academic Policies and Academic Freedom

**Summary:**

This group is responsible for explaining how the college’s policies related to academic freedom and academics in general support and integrate with the college’s core themes. This team will write the portion of the report that addresses how the college’s academic policies are developed and communicated; how the college maintains the integrity of its academic programs. In addition, this team will report on how the college encourages the free exchange of ideas, independent thought and scholarship through its policies regarding academic freedom and responsibility. Finally, the team will show how access to and use of the library and information resources are documented, published and enforced.

**The group will address in the written report the following specific accreditation standards related to academic policies and academic freedom:**

*Academics*

2.A.12

Academic policies—including those related to teaching, service, scholarship, research, and artistic creation—are clearly communicated to students and faculty and to administrators and staff with responsibilities related to these areas.

2.A.13

Policies regarding access to and use of library and information resources—regardless of format, location, and delivery method—are documented, published, and enforced.

2.A.14

The institution develops, publishes widely, and follows an effective and clearly stated transfer-of-credit policy that maintains the integrity of its programs while facilitating efficient mobility of students between institutions in completing their educational programs.

*Academic Freedom*

2.A.27

The institution publishes and adheres to policies, approved by its governing board, regarding academic freedom and responsibility that protect its constituencies from inappropriate internal and external influences, pressures, and harassment.

2.A.28

Within the context of its mission, core themes, and values, the institution defines and actively promotes an environment that supports independent thought in the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge. It affirms the freedom of faculty, staff, administrators, and students to share their scholarship and reasoned conclusions with others. While the institution and individuals within the institution may hold to a particular personal, social, or religious philosophy, its constituencies are intellectually free to examine thought, reason, and perspectives of truth. Moreover, they allow others the freedom to do the same.

2.A.29

Individuals with teaching responsibilities present scholarship fairly, accurately, and objectively. Derivative scholarship acknowledges the source of intellectual property, and personal views, beliefs, and opinions are identified as such.