

Summary of meeting with Middle States Site Visit Chair, Dr. Jackson, President of RPI

The meeting with Dr. Jackson started around 3:10pm and went to around a little after 4pm. There were about 40 people in the room. Only 6 or 7 were elected council members, the rest were faculty selected by Deans. The meeting time was changed but FS members were unaware of the change. Several council faculty were unable to make the new meeting time although they'd rearranged their schedules.

In general, the council members and some selected faculty described the dysfunction that most HU faculty endure. Topics included shared governance, and a process that involves mission, strategic planning, MSCHE standards, measured outcomes, and budgeting. We think Dr. Jackson understood that faculty, in general, think Howard University is broken. For example, faculty mentioned that:

(a) Handbook - Board of Trustees approved a document not approved by the faculty.

(b) Budget processes - Generally, budget not tied to university priorities. Budget set by the administration. Schools and colleges receive budgets late and/or not at all.

(c) Budget Advisory Committee - Virtually no input from faculty.

(d) Infrastructure is terrible. Impacts faculty and students.

It also seems that HU administration, board, and faculty have 3 options:

(1) Tell the truth about how HU is broken but without saying how we still provide a quality education promised to our students. This option will have serious consequences to our accreditation.

(2) Don't tell the truth and accept/endorse the majority of the preliminary self study document. This may have little impact on our accreditation.

(3) Tell the truth about how HU is broken, how we try to still deliver quality instruction to our students, and present an honest plan on how to fix the major problems of what is wrong at HU.