Preparing for a COSMA Site Visit: Perspectives of Site Reviewers and Institutions

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Management/leadership Thursday, June 2, 2011 60-minute symposium, roundtable, or workshop
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COSMA’s mission is to promote and recognize excellence in sport management education through specialized accreditation. Most accreditation processes rely on colleague-to-colleague discussions and anecdotal evidence to learn what really goes on during a site visit. The purpose of this session is to provide an open forum for institutions and site reviewers to discuss their processes and best practices in an effort to make the process transparent. This is a timely topic because, after nearly three years since its inception, COSMA has accredited two institutions and five others have gone through the site review process. What makes for a positive site visit? What can institutions do to make their site visits run more smoothly? Likewise, how should site reviewers prepare for a COSMA site visit? What can they do ahead of time to ensure a smooth process? This workshop provides a forum for both sides to discuss their experiences.

Dr. Abney will discuss what she and her colleagues did at Slippery Rock University to prepare for their COSMA site visit. In her presentation, she will address completing the self-study, providing additional information to the site review team, and contacting the site review team prior to the visit. In addition, she will offer suggestions and best practices for preparing the site reviewers’ on-campus work room and “little things” that can be done to keep the team focused on their task. She will provide an example of who on your campus should be involved in preparing for the visit from the President to graduate assistants and students.

Dr. Barr and Dr. Judd will discuss their preparation methods and analysis of the self-study prior to the site visit. They will reveal tips regarding their discussions about their process of deciding what to focus on and what questions to ask while on-site. From their perspective, they will offer concrete strategies for reviewing and analyzing the required information and how that was synthesized into a final report for the Board of Commissioners.

All presenters will include suggestions for making the COSMA site review process more efficient, transparent, and complete. Audience members will be encouraged to ask questions and provide insight into their experiences with the COSMA accreditation process and other accrediting bodies. Attendees will benefit from the peer-to-peer style discussion.