

Phillips settles in as self-study coordinator

•ACC works through accreditation

BY JOEL POTRYKUS
STAFF WRITER

Former English instructor, Roger Phillips, has found new challenges and discoveries with his position as Alpena Community College's self-study coordinator. Stepping down from instructing English, Phillips is now the full-time self-study coordinator.

"I miss students, I miss the process of watching them learn, and I miss classroom interaction," said Phillips. But he added that he found his new position allows him to see the process of learning in a whole new way.

In order to establish themselves as a reliable source of education and training, colleges undergo a self-study known as accreditation.

Accreditation is a process that ACC is currently undergoing to demonstrate to the students, community, and the nation that this institution has met standards and will provide the best possible education it is capable of delivering.

Accreditation is a review

of the all aspects of the college - the educational programs, financial resources, physical resources, human resources, support services, outreach services, and all other areas of the college will be reviewed to assure that each field is acting with integ-

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~ Roger Phillips ~

ity and fulfilling their duties successfully.

To get a full view of the college's needs for improvement, this self-study is being conducted by nearly all of ACC's staff and some of its students.

To head this system of self-study, ACC approached English instructor Roger

Phillips.

Phillips agreed to undertake the duty, and now, as the full-time self-study coordinator, Phillips must conduct meetings with the college's staff and organize the studies.

The college's staff formed 12 separate committees each reviewing a different aspect of the college. After observation, research, and revision, they hold meetings to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the field that they are currently studying.

They present facts and highlight areas that are performing well or need improvement to Phillips, who then writes a report from the information found by each committee.

The work of the committees will be done in March; they will have completed their research, evaluated their area, drawn a conclusion, and will make recommendations for improvement.

When all reports have been collected, Phillips will then compile them into one fi-

nal catalog of ACC's plans of correction, called the Self-Study Report. Next October, the report will then be sent to the North Central Association, for their approval.

In April of 1998, ACC will have a three day visit from four or five administrators and instructors from other colleges across the nation. These representatives will have read through ACC's Self-Study Report and looked into all of the data compiled.

They will visit the campus and do their own research on the college while on their visit. They will then recommend whether or not the college should be re-accredited.

The accreditation process has been involved in Higher education institutions for over 100 years. In 1895, the North Central Association was formed, which was an assembly of colleges and high schools in the mid-west.

Its purpose was to derive common standards by which they could judge each institution. By 1913, this association had become a formalized means of comparing colleges

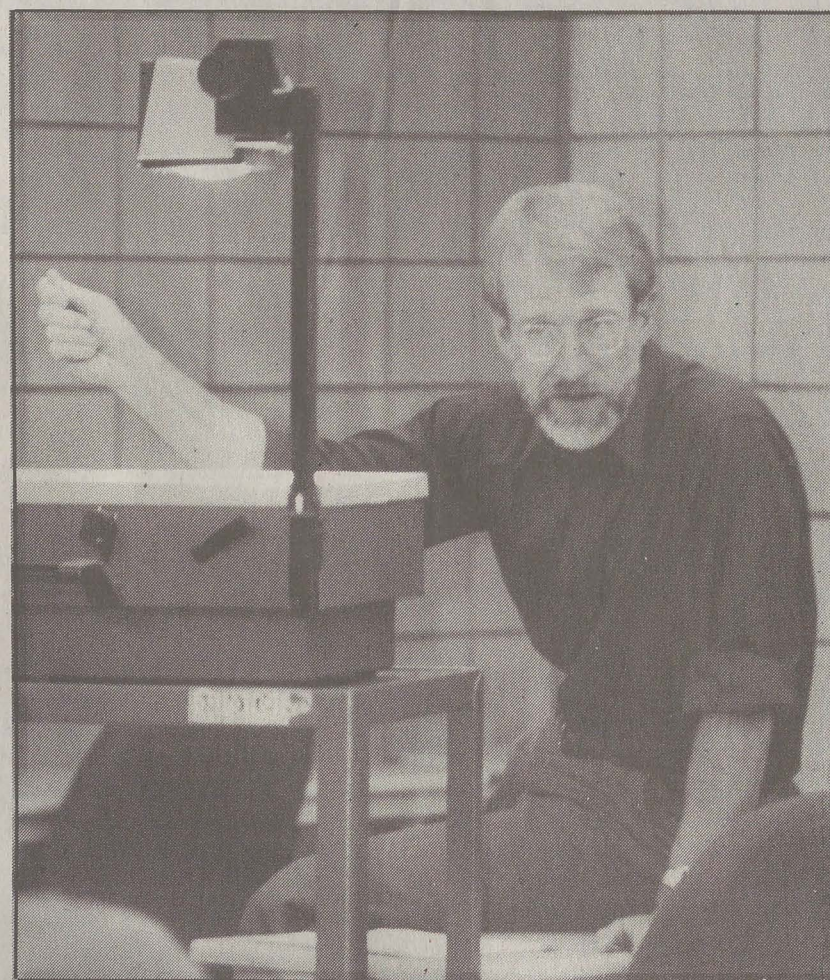


PHOTO BY POLEMIC STAFF

ACC English instructor Roger Phillips fields a question during a recent presentation.

and creating standards.

The Regional Accreditation Association was then formed, with the North Central Association maintaining the standards of mid-west col-

leges, of which ACC belongs to.

Phillips and the rest of the college's staff are continuously striving to maintain ACC's tradition of excellence. The accreditation process can only improve the educational experience and environment at the college.

The transfer process requires legwork

BY CHARLES K HURST
STAFF WRITER

Many Alpena Community College students plan on transferring to a four-year university. However, they quickly

realize that it can be an experience riddled with obstacles. Although every major is different, the transfer process is similar in all cases.

The first obstacle that presents itself is the accreditation

concern. Of the three schools explored; Michigan State University, Central Michigan University, and the University of Michigan, only one, MSU, had an accredited journalism program. Their program is accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications.

CMU and U of M both have journalism programs, but the student going into the field should consider their prospective employer's policies on hiring graduates from a non-accredited program.

The second obstacle is the credit transfer issue. This is the most important and complex issue of any that will be encountered. Each school has different criteria concerning the transfer of credits.

For example, most schools will only allow half of the credits needed for a four-year degree to come from a community college, and some allow more.

There will be credits that transfer as regular course credits at one school, but only as electives at another, or they will not transfer at all. Elective credits are limited to a set amount that will transfer.

Taking courses that don't transfer is a waste of time and money.

The third obstacle that most students will encounter is the need for knowledge of their chosen school's transfer guidelines.

"You need this information," said Richard Counsellor, Student Services counselor. "Many students don't make the effort themselves until it is too late. Seeing your advisor is only half the battle."

Every four-year school that accepts credits from ACC sends a detailed transfer guide to assist counselors and academic advisors in preparing students for the move to a four-year in-

stitute.

Until you present your counselors and advisors with some type of plan encompassing your chosen program of study and a school that best meets your needs, they will not be able to help you with proper efficiency.

There are several ways to gain more knowledge of the policies at the school you plan on transferring to.

First, go to the ACC library and ask to see the college catalogues. In the catalogues you will find some of the information you seek, such as MACRAO transfer facts, course outlines, accreditations, and phone numbers and addresses to the admissions office.

Second, call or write the admissions office and express your concerns. Their job is to assist students in gaining admissions to their institute.

Third, set up an appointment with Richard Counsellor at Student Services. He will be glad to help you iron out the details. Contact him at 356-9021 ext. 277.

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