

Appendix 3
SACS Update
General Faculty Meeting
October 23, 2003

Recent Developments

Since the last update to the General Faculty in spring semester, there have been several developments related to reaffirmation:

- ❑ Members of the Leadership Team attended an orientation to SACS reaffirmation in Atlanta in June.
- ❑ The Office of Strategic Research and Analysis, with your help, completed its inventory of assessment methods now in use.
- ❑ SACS publicized its revised timetable for 2005 institutions.
- ❑ Discussions have begun with the University Webmaster about building a site for reaffirmation.
- ❑ SACS has now published its long-awaited handbook for the reaffirmation process.
- ❑ Recently the President charged the Strategic Planning Council with synchronizing the University mission statement with the strategic plan. That effort is moving along well and is expected to conclude this semester, since the mission statement forms the basis of many of the judgments we will make as we work on reaffirmation.
- ❑ **The Leadership Team for Reaffirmation has begun monthly meetings and has approved a structure involving support teams for both the Compliance Certification and the Quality Enhancement Plan that I will describe in a few minutes.**

Compliance Certification

- ❑ This document will lay out each of the Core Requirements and Comprehensive Standards found in the *Principles of Accreditation* and state clearly whether we comply fully, partially, or not at all.
- ❑ We must submit our document by September 10, 2004, and it will form the basis for our off-site review in November of that year.
- ❑ For the Compliance Certification, faculty will be involved through support teams that will be appointed and charged with reporting to the Leadership Team their preliminary judgments about compliance with the *Principles* and citing written evidence for compliance.
- ❑ Teams will be appointed for the following sections of the *Principles*:
 - Mission
 - Library/Learning Resources
 - Governance and Administration
 - Student Affairs and Services
 - Institutional Effectiveness
 - Finance
 - Educational Programs
 - Physical Resources
 - Faculty
- ❑ The Leadership Team is charged with writing the final version of the Compliance Certification that bears the signatures of the President and the Accreditation Liaison.

Quality Enhancement Plan

- ❑ **The quality enhancement plan focuses on the theme “Advancing a Culture of Engagement.”**
- ❑ **It will describe a course of action whereby we intend to enhance student learning over the next several years.**
- ❑ **The QEP includes specific goals, expected results that are measurable, realistic implementation steps, and an evaluation plan.**
- ❑ **Campus-wide involvement will come about through Support Teams appointed by the Vice Presidents by functional areas within their divisions.**
- ❑ **These teams will be charged with submitting to the Leadership Team their goals related to the QEP theme, expected results, an analysis of institutional context, consideration of best practices, realistic implementation steps, and an evaluation plan.**
- ❑ **The QEP is the main focus of the on-site review team that visits the campus in spring of 2005.**
- ❑ **Since it is a plan, it will continue to be reviewed annually in the revised reporting structure adopted by SACS.**

Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

Basic paradigm of institutional effectiveness to which we will be held:

- ❑ that we identify expected outcomes for our educational programs and our administrative and educational support services;
 - ❑ that we assess whether we achieve these outcomes;
 - ❑ and that we provide evidence of improvement based on analysis of those results.
- President Grube and Provost Vandegrift will coordinate the University’s institutional effectiveness efforts, assisted by the Strategic Planning Council and all of you.