

## **Updates from the SACSCOC Steering Committee and QEP team**

### **Business Managers' Meeting – March 12, 2013**

#### **Background:**

LSU is in the midst of its reaffirmation preparations for our

- decennial accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) – LSU’s regional accrediting body (808 institutions from VA to TX).
- Accreditation allows our students to be “graduates of an accredited institution”. This
  - permits our students to receive federal funding for their education
  - allows our faculty to be supported by federal grants and contracts.
- SACSCOC accreditation provides assurances to all other accrediting organizations, which in turn accredit individual degree programs (e.g. AACSB). Without SACSCOC accreditation, none of the other discipline specific accreditations would be possible.
- To be reaffirmed for accreditation LSU must demonstrate that it is compliant with the 98 Principles of Accreditation set forth by SACSCOC; including the development of a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).
  - The 98 principles focus on “student learning”, but covers all aspects of running a university.
  - The Compliance Document that we submit is a “backward-looking” document that deals with whether we were compliant with the principles over the last 10 years (from the time of submission).
- The QEP is a “forward-looking” three- to five-year plan of action to improve student knowledge, skills, attitudes, values, or behaviors or the environment to support these in our students.
- To attain these goals LSU has established and empowered two committees/teams of faculty, staff, and students:
  - SACSCOC Reaffirmation of Accreditation Steering Committee (30 members) is charged with overseeing and coordinating the compliance certification process
  - QEP team is charged with leadership in the identification and preparation of the QEP.

### **Noteworthy dates/time periods for SACSCOC reaffirmation of accreditation:**

**September 10, 2013:** Submission of compliance document to SACSCOC off-site reaffirmation committee.

~mid-November, 2013: review by the SACSCOC off-site committee will be returned.

December 2013-January 2014: Response to SACSCOC off-site report and submission of QEP.

March 11-13, 2014: Dates of the on-site SACSCOC reaffirmation committee visit to LSU.

December 9, 2014: Announcement date for reaffirmation of accreditation for LSU.

### **Recent/upcoming events and activities**

- 1) There is a "SACSCOC accreditation at LSU" webpage that contains background information on the SACSCOC accreditation process as well ongoing efforts by the Steering Committee and QEP team. The webpage address is [www.lsu.edu/accreditation](http://www.lsu.edu/accreditation). There is also a website for the QEP that can be found using LSU A-Z ([http://www.lsu.edu/faculty\\_staff/sacscoc\\_reaffirmation\\_qep.shtml](http://www.lsu.edu/faculty_staff/sacscoc_reaffirmation_qep.shtml)) that summarizes activities of the QEP to this point.
- 2) The Steering Committee has generated initial responses to most of the SACSCOC principles and is in the process of refining and adding appropriate evidence of compliance. Additional information requests will likely be made to various groups at LSU in the next several months.
- 3) An external SACSCOC accreditation consultant has visited LSU twice (October 29-30, 2012 and January 14-16, 2013) and provided input on LSU's progress in the accreditation process. Based on her input, we have modified the way in which we approach the principles with the supporting documentation. She continues to give feedback and will return late April.
- 4) An LSU accreditation team attended the SACSCOC Annual meeting (Dec. 9-12, 2012) to interact with SACSCOC officials and our consultant on issues specific to LSU.
- 5) Darrell Henry will serve as an observer with the SACSCOC on-site review team at Clemson (April 16-18, 2012).
- 6) The Spring Semester 2013 focus is on refining/documenting/rewriting each Principle to have a near-final draft by the end of the semester. There will be an emphasis on completing these as early in the semester as possible. WE MUST HAVE A GOOD DRAFT OF THE COMPLIANCE DOCUMENT BY MAY.
- 7) Possible structural changes at LSU. Rather than speculate, the Steering Committee will need deal with what is in place and write the responses to Principles accordingly. If there are structural changes, SACSCOC will be notified (if the changes are substantive) and the Steering Committee responses to Principles will need to adjust accordingly.