

**Faculty Senate Meeting
December 2, 2008**

SACS information

- The SACS website is located at the following ECU web address: <http://www.ecu.edu/sacs/>. The website contains basic information about the SACS Accreditation process, as well as lists of the major committees/councils and their memberships. The membership lists for some, but not all, of the various SACS working groups and councils are now posted and up-to-date on this website.
- The Global Perspectives Working Group has developed two documents that define global preparedness and provide a profile of the "globally prepared student." The Working Group members are now in the process of soliciting wider faculty input by inviting other faculty members to join selected meetings of the group. The next such meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2008 (10 am until noon in MSC221). Anyone who is interested is encouraged to contact David Weismiller (the Chair of ECU's SACS team) and volunteer to serve on the Working Group. Faculty may also contact me and I will forward their name to the Steering Committee.
- The University Outcomes Assessment Council, chaired by George Bailey, has developed a university-wide assessment model that has been forwarded to the Deans and to the various campus academic units. All academic units have been asked to prepare and submit a unit assessment plan. As of Dec 1, approximately 75% of the academic units have submitted assessment plans. The unit assessment plans will be evaluated (using a rubric developed by David Weismiller and others) by various working groups on "General Education (Foundations Curriculum)," "Undergraduate Programs," and "Graduate Studies." These working groups have already been populated with faculty members and the group memberships are listed on the SACS website. Other faculty interested in participating in the working groups should contact David Weismiller or George Bailey. Assessment of our academic programs is a fundamental academic endeavor, hence must be done in full cooperation with, and with full participation of, university faculty. To be meaningful, a serious conversation about both the methods and the meaning of assessment is necessary -- as is an understanding of how the data generated by assessment will be used and how the assessment process will impact the curriculum. I encourage the faculty on the working groups to evaluate both the individual assessment programs and the assessment model itself.
- The Steering Committee is considering ways to populate the UNC-mandated VSA (Voluntary System of Accountability; <http://www.voluntarysystem.org/index.cfm>) with data from our assessment efforts. To this end, they are looking at both the NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement; <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/ipre/VSA-Student-Experiences-and-Perceptions.cfm>) and the CLA (Collegiate Learning Assessment; http://www.cae.org/content/pro_collegiate.htm) as potential data gathering tools. The CLA has already been piloted on campus (<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/ipre/VSA-Student-Learning-Outcomes.cfm>) and the Steering Committee has scheduled a CLA workshop for January 7 and 8, 2009. All faculty are invited to participate. Please look for the official announcement, which will be delivered via e-mail.
- The University has chosen a "Performance Management System" that is intended to help keep track of unit/student assessment data. The chosen products are Nuventive TracDat (http://www.nuventive.com/products_tracdat.html) and iWebfolio (http://www.nuventive.com/products_iwebfolio.html). These programs will be used to keep track of assessment data (and to allow students to build personal portfolios of their university experience/education). They will, of course, require faculty and staff training. Some of the adoption issues are still being worked out, but funding (\$92,700) has been approved -- as has the addition of a IPRE staff member (a new *Outcomes Associate*) who will help units get their assessment data into electronic format. A dedicated technical support person will likely be hired from within ECU's technical ranks and a faculty/staff "adoption committee" is being assembled to aid in the implementation of this new system.
- Quality Enhancement is at the heart of the SACS Accreditation process. ECU is required to develop a QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan). A QEP Council (<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/sacs/QEPCouncil.cfm>) has been formed, but the membership is not yet published on the SACS website. There is no standard approach to developing a QEP, but SACS wants the entire university to be involved in determining the focus of the plan. The QEP *must* be tied to student learning, *should* be at least tangentially tied to ECU's mission, and *can* have a narrow focus. In January, 2010, there will be a university-wide call for topics. In all likelihood, the QEP will be focused on one of the ECU Tomorrow goals (possibly global readiness), but this is not a SACS requirement. I encourage any interested faculty to propose a topic/focus for ECU's QEP. Any QEP will be tied to academics, hence faculty involvement is essential for success.

- The Faculty Credentials Council (<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/sacs/FacCredentials.cfm>) has been charged with developing an electronic form that will be used to report on faculty credentials and ensure compliance with SACS guidelines (<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/sacs/upload/FacultyCredentials.pdf>). The membership of this Council is now published on the SACS website.
- The following is a list of the all currently known (to me) SACS Committees, Councils, and Working Groups:
 - Leadership Team (Steve Ballard, Marilyn Sheerer, David Weismiller, Michael Poteat)
 - Executive Committee (David Weismiller, Rita Reaves, Anne Jenkins, Ernie Marshburn, Lynne Davis)
 - Steering Committee (Chair - David Weismiller)
 - Council on Institutional Effectiveness (Chair - TBA)
 - Compliance Certification Council (Chair – David Weismiller)
 - University Outcomes Assessment and Program Review Council (Chair – George Bailey)
 - Working Group on Undergraduate Programs (Chair – Mike Brown)
 - Working Group on General Education (Chair – Linda Wolfe)
 - Working Group on Global Awareness (Chair - ?)
 - [Working Group on Leadership] *pending*
 - Working Group on Distance Education (Chair – Elmer Poe)
 - Working Group on Administrative and Support Programs (Chair – Linner Griffin)
 - Working Group on Student Services (Chair – Nancy Mize)
 - Working Group on Graduate Studies (Chair – Paul Gemperline)
 - Quality Enhancement Plan Council (Chair - TBA)
 - Faculty Credentials Council (Chair – Sandra Warren)
 - Compliance Readiness Council (Chair – Terri Lawler)
 - Financial and Physical Resources Council (Chair – Ann Jenkins)
 - Technology Support Work Group (Chair - TBA)
 - 5th Year Interim Report Working Group (Chair – Rita Reaves)

As always, I am happy to try to answer any questions the faculty might have about ECU's accreditation process/progress and to pass on any faculty concerns or inquiries to the SAS Steering Committee and/or the appropriate Councils and Working Groups.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine A. Rigsby, Professor
 Department of Geological Sciences
 Faculty Representative, SACS Steering Committee