



Item: SP: I1

## STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 18, 2012

SUBJECT: SACS UPDATE

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### PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

No action is required.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FAU's Compliance Certification Report (CCR) for Reaffirmation of Accreditation was submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and to the Off-site Review Committee members to meet the submission deadline date of September 10, 2012. A web demo of this report will be provided during the BOT Strategic Planning Committee meeting. This report can be accessed at <https://xitracs.fau.edu/review.htm> and the following login has been created for Board of Trustee members: bot@fau.edu. The site requires a password, which will be sent via separate email.

Identified below are some important SACS dates and timeline that are relevant to FAU's completion of the 2012-13 reaffirmation of accreditation cycle.

- **September 10, 2012**  
FAU's Compliance Certification Report (CCR) for Reaffirmation of Accreditation was submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).
- **November 8-9, 2012**  
The Off-Site Review Committee is comprised of administrators and faculty from institutions of higher education accredited by SACS. Committee members will have approximately eight weeks to review our CCR individually prior to meeting as a group on November 8-9, 2012 to finalize the committee's report and prepare follow-up requests, if any.
- **Mid-December, 2012**  
As part of the Reaffirmation of Accreditation process, each institution is required to submit a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The QEP is specific to each university and should be a topic that contributes to institutional improvement and is related to enhancing student learning.

FAU's QEP topic is "Distinction through Discovery: Expanding the Culture of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry."

The QEP, which is a separate component from the CCR, is submitted approximately six weeks before the On-Site Visit. FAU's QEP will be submitted in mid-December in order to meet the timeline for the On-Site Visit.

- **February 5-7, 2013**

An On-Site Review Committee (as yet to be identified) will visit the University to conduct an intensive review in February 2013. The team will evaluate and determine the acceptability of the QEP, review any areas of non-compliance noted by the Off-Site Review Committee, review standards and requirements related to those established by the U.S. Department of Education, and review any areas of concern that may surface during the visit. Reviewers may request meetings with administrators, faculty, students – and possibly members of FAU's governing board. The meeting schedule for the On-Site Visit will be determined by the Chair of the Committee.

- **December 2013**

The On-Site Committee completes its report which is submitted to the SACSCOC and then forwarded to the institution. The university prepares a response to the recommendations, if any, and submits it to the SACSCOC. The Chair of the On-Site Reaffirmation Committee evaluates the response. After review of the three primary reaffirmation documents --Report of the Reaffirmation Committee, the QEP, and the institution's response – and two analyses of the institution's response, one by Chair of the On-Site Reaffirmation Committee and one by the institution's Commission staff representative, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees takes action on the institution's reaffirmation at its annual meeting held in December.

#### IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Implementation of SACS reaffirmation of accreditation initiatives is on-going and will conclude in December 2013.

#### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

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**Supporting Documentation:**

N/A

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