

## Updates from the SACSCOC Steering Committee and QEP team

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) of 808 institutions from VA to TX).

LSU's accreditation status

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).

LSU is a public university.

The Compliance Review Committee is a committee 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 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

**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) 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). 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 16-19, 2013).