SACSLetter 2011

SACS: The End of the Beginning

First Phase Approaches Completion

Del Mar College’s responses to the seventy-three standards and requirements with which every member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools must comply in order to maintain good standing with the accrediting body is nearing completion. It’s called the Compliance Certification Report, and it has to be in the hands of the Off-Site Review Committee by the Ides of March.

Around the 10th or 12th of March, a package will be sent from the College—probably overnighted—to each member of the Committee. Inside will be a letter from Del Mar’s President, Dr. Mark Escamilla, declaring the College’s strict adherence to the SACS Principle of Integrity in the production of the report; a DVD produced by College Relations that will give the Committee a visual tour of the campus; and, among a few other things, a print and electronic copy of the Compliance Certification Report.

As it responds to the SACS’s certification requirements, this report represents a thorough description of all aspects of the College, from its physical plant to its finances to the way it hires faculty members and delivers instruction. For each standard or requirement, the College assigns itself a rating of “Compliance,” “Non-Compliance,” or “Partial Compliance,” and then produces a narrative that justifies its judgment. Some of the narratives are only a paragraph or two long; others stretch to eighteen or twenty pages. And all of them require evidentiary documentation of whatever claims or assertions the College makes.

The Compliance Certification Report has been a couple of years in the making, and at least fifty members of the Del Mar Community have laid their hands on it in one way or another.

The Compliance Certification Report is only the first stage. The Off-Site Review Committee will review the College’s report and produce a report of their own that conveys their assessment of the College’s compliance with each standard and requirement. Then the College will produce a Focused Report, which is the College’s response to the Off-Site Committee’s report.
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Finally, an On-Site Review Committee will arrive at the College on October 12 for a visit of several days, during which it will follow up on any recommendations or discrepancies noted by the Off-Site Review Committee.

In the meantime, the College’s Quality Enhancement Plan, another significant part of reaffirmation of accreditation continues to develop. See the Update below.

That’s SACS for now. If all goes well, the College’s accreditation will be reaffirmed in Summer 2011. The SACSLetter will keep you informed.

QEP UPDATE:
Research and Design Committee Finds a QEP Title

Special thanks goes out to Research and Design Committee member Don Craig for taking the lead in the Committee’s search for a “brand” for the Quality Enhancement Plan. He ran our ideas and suggestions for the QEP title past his colleagues in Business.

Also, thanks goes out to Ben Blanco’s 1311: Principles of Marketing class for taking time to assist the Committee in deciding on the title. Sixteen students reviewed and debated all of the titles presented. They chose the title they felt would be most easily remembered, would fit the goals and objectives of the QEP, and would be the most marketable.

The title they picked is: Math: The Road to Success.

Christin Vega is chair of the QEP Marketing Committee. While she has plenty of ideas to market the plan, any suggestions and assistance to bring those ideas to fruition would be appreciated. You can email her at cvega@delmar.edu

The Research and Design Committee is continuing to draft the Quality Enhancement Plan.

Dr. Patricia Walter
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Communications, Languages, and Reading