New SACS Liaison Appointed

Dr. Lee Sloan has been appointed the new SACS Liaison, the College officer with primary responsibility for managing Del Mar College’s reaffirmation of accreditation project. Dr. Sloan has served as a SACS Peer Reviewer every year since the mid-'90s, and his familiarity with all aspects of the reaffirmation process is extensive.

Colleague Shares SACS Visit Experience

**Lenora Keas Serves on SACS On-Site Peer Review Committee**

Several members of the Del Mar College community have recently participated in a SACS On-Site Peer Review Committee visit to an institution undergoing the same reaffirmation of accreditation process in which Del Mar is currently engaged.

On-Site Peer Review Committees are charged with conducting an evaluation of compliance issues that arise in the Compliance Certification document and evaluating the acceptability of the Quality Enhancement Plan.

Lenora Keas, Chair of the Department of Business Administration, was in Richmond, Virginia, from October 19-22, serving as one of eleven peer reviewers visiting J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, an institution of 18,000 students.

Ms. Keas was the lead reviewer for several evaluation areas that will be important to Del Mar’s successful reaffirmation: faculty credentials, qualifications of administrative and academic officers, faculty evaluation, program length, and two sections of the Quality Enhancement Plan.

The information and experiences that she acquired during this visit will be shared with colleagues who are working in those areas of our own process, but here are two preliminary reports that Ms. Keas brings from Richmond:

(1) Del Mar College must assure that all faculty members are evaluated, including adjuncts, online instructors, and dual credit instructors and

(2) the work that the College has done so far on faculty credentials has been right “on target.”

Future newsletters will have reports from other members of the Del Mar community who are traveling to campuses up for SACS reaffirmation.

In the meantime, we continue to anticipate and prepare for our own On-Site Peer Review, which is scheduled for October 12-14, 2010.
QEP UPDATE

The Quality Enhancement Plan Research and Design Committee is working diligently to complete a rough draft of the QEP by January. The QEP must be thoroughly described in a document of no more than 75 pages.

During the Summer Academy, more than 50 participants from various departments submitted almost 100 strategies—all related to developmental math—that addressed the four objectives of the QEP. The Committee has narrowed these strategies into areas of some of the greatest concern. These areas include: advising, academic support services (which includes supplemental instruction, early intervention, peer tutoring, and the Math Learning Center), Freshman Seminar, placement, professional development (for all faculty), and innovative instructional and course delivery strategies.

At the same time, the Committee and library staff are doing a thorough literature review in order to decide on the actions that need to be taken and which strategies need to be implemented to enhance student learning in developmental mathematics. Once the actions and strategies have been determined, the assessment, the budget, and the timeline for implementation will be established and written.

Additionally, the Math and Physics Department is researching possible lead evaluators for the QEP to make a recommendation to administration by November. A title for the QEP has been chosen by the Committee and will be revealed at a later date.

Watch this space for a title announcement and for further updates on the progress of the College’s Quality Enhancement Plan.

Dr. Patricia Walter
QEP Faculty Coordinator
Communications, Languages, and Reading

SACS Website

You can find a great deal of information about the SACS reaffirmation of accreditation project at Del Mar College by linking to:

www.delmar.edu/sacs2011/index.html