Del Mar College is preparing for the SACS On-Site Peer Review that will be conducted between September and November 2010. The College began preparing for the reaffirmation of accreditation in January 2007 and has made significant progress in establishing oversight committees and working teams and committees to address the two key components of the review process: the compliance review process and the process for developing a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for the College.

Compliance Review
The College is required to document institutional compliance with the SACS Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, and Federal Requirements. The College has identified a SACS Compliance Team that is working with individuals throughout the campus to address and respond to the areas identified in the Compliance Certification Section. Ms. Vickie Natale is serving as the chair of this committee. A most recent meeting of the team indicated that this process is moving forward in a timely manner.

There are approximately 70 sections that need to be addressed by providing a written narrative with supporting documentation. Since the sections are being prepared by different writers, the College will assign an internal editor to prepare the document for submission to SACS by March 15, 2010.

Some of the responses to the sections depend upon the work that is being completed in critical areas such as the assessment of student learning and the assessment of the core curriculum. Dr. Irma Woods, Faculty Coordinator of Assessment, is focusing on this critical component within the instructional division.

Concerns identified by the teams are being forwarded to the appropriate administrator and also being discussed by the Compliance Team, which includes the President, VPs, and other key administrators.

There are a few sections that are related to the Board, and the College President will begin reviewing these items with the Board and ensuring that the College is in compliance in these areas.

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)
The QEP is submitted six weeks in advance of the on-site review by the Commission. Identification of the QEP topic began last fall, and we are now focusing on a QEP topic that will improve mathematics competency across the curriculum. Dr. Patricia Walter, Faculty Coordinator of QEP, has made significant progress this fall, including identification of a faculty research and coordination committee for QEP. This project must be a broad-based institutional process and should focus on learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning and accomplishing the mission of the institution.

The College has established a budget for the QEP project and is supporting travel and professional development for faculty who are helping develop the project plan.