



GEORGIA HIGHLANDS COLLEGE



SACS Reaffirmation Newsletter #2

May 1, 2006

Hello again! Since this SACS newsletter will be the last one you read until the start of Fall semester, it includes plans that will be in motion over the summer as well as some updates.

Planning Survey

I would like to send a very large thank-you to all those people who completed a GHC Planning Survey. Although the survey was designed to serve more than just the needs of the reaffirmation process, much great data was gleaned for the QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan). The results are being processed at the moment (at the very moment I type this, actually, thanks to the hard work of Judy Bradshaw), so that when we return for the new academic year, they can be shared with everyone. Over the summer, though, the Administrative Council will make use of the results as part of the creation of a new Strategic Plan (2006-2009). Additionally, the SACS Leadership Team and the Increasing Expectations Advisory Committee will be contemplating some focus groups for the Fall, based on the results, that will bring the college community together to talk about our strengths and our needs. These discussions will begin the process of creating our QEP. Thanks again to all who participated.

Web Structure

All of our SACS materials will be submitted online. To facilitate this process, we need a website dedicated to SACS. A team of people has already undertaken this feat, including Jeff Patty, Dana Pergrem, Rob Laltrello, Steven Souders, and Michael Diprima. Michael has already put all of the basics together and now anxiously awaits some data to put into the framework. In order to streamline the process (and not have too many cooks in the kitchen), all the basic data will come through me to Dana, who is organizing the technological aspects of our reaffirmation, to Michael for placement on the website. As we get further along, I will probably be contacting some of you for information, documents, etc. Everything that is not in electronic format will be converted to such for placement on the web. There will be many documents (assessment reports, policies, class descriptions, forms, etc.) for the web, but the site will be password protected so only the SACS off-site team has access.

Summer Progress

Over the summer I will be working on the Compliance Certification. Each of the Core Requirements and Comprehensive Standards will have an explanation of why GHC is in compliance, with supporting documentation. I anticipate completion of this document by the start of Fall semester. Once this is finished, we can load it into the web structure and start proofing and tweaking, and proofing again. Some of you may be asked to help spot check and give feedback. The SACS Leadership Team will also be double checking the document.

I know all the faculty members are excited about Assessment Day on May 8th! It will be a good opportunity to meet with your team one last time before yearly reports are due on June 1st. I am gathering data from my finals, and many of you may be as well. Please remember to keep copies of the material you use for assessment purposes. Also communicate with your team facilitator about getting data to him/her for the final report.

AES Unit heads also remember that your annual assessment reports are due June 1st. Here is the address for the reporting form if you need it:
<http://www.highlands.edu/academics/academicaffairs/assessment.htm>. Don't hesitate to contact myself or Brent Griffin if you need help.

We are getting there. The summer will see much work that will hopefully allow us to breathe easy and concentrate on the QEP upon our return. Look for another update in the Fall!

Laura Musselwhite