A Review of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Reaffirmation Process

Presentation to the FGCU Board of Trustees
September 16, 2014

Ronald B. Toll, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)

SACSCOC is our regional accreditor

Regional accreditation is critically important:

- Validates the quality of our programs and services
- Leads to eligibility for Federal Title 4 Student Financial Aid Programs
### FGCU Accreditation History

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<tr>
<th><strong>Event</strong></th>
<th><strong>Details</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1999</strong></td>
<td>FGCU was first accredited</td>
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<td><strong>2005</strong></td>
<td>FGCU had its accreditation reaffirmed</td>
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<td><strong>2009</strong></td>
<td>FGCU applied for and was granted a change from Level 3 to Level 5 in 2009.</td>
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<td><strong>2011</strong></td>
<td>FGCU successfully completed its 5th-year interim review</td>
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<td><strong>2014-2015</strong></td>
<td>The reaffirmation cycle is scheduled to occur in 2014-2015 with an action to be taken in December 2015</td>
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Reaffirmation

Steps Involved:

Compliance Certification
- Written Narratives
- Supporting Documentation
- Internal Review
- Submission: September 8, 2014

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)
- Topic Selection
- Committee Appointment
- Draft Implementation Plan
- Gather Feedback
- Plan Revision
- Submit Plan by February 16, 2015
- Review by QEP Subject Expert March 31-April 2, 2015
The Leadership Team is responsible for coordinating the entire process and is comprised of:

- President
- Provost
- Vice Presidents
- Senior Associate Provost
- Staff Advisory Council President
- Faculty Senate President
- Student Government Vice President
Leadership Team Responsibilities:

- Coordinating and managing the internal review process
- Coordinating the completion of the Compliance Certification
- Overseeing the completion and ensuring the accuracy of the Institutional Summary Form
- Ensuring that the institutional community is engaged in the review process and is informed of the progress of the review
- Developing the Focused Report
- Overseeing the development and implementation of the Quality Enhancement Plan
- Ensuring that the appropriate follow-up activities are in place
Organization – Part I

SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison

- Coordinate completion of work on behalf of the Leadership Team
- Interface with SACSCOC on all questions that arise
- Oversee arrangements for the on-site review on behalf of the Leadership Team
Organization – Part II

Compliance Certification Working Group

Assist in the compilation of the compliance report

Coordinated by Accreditation Liaison, supported by FGCU Planning and Institutional Performance, and reviewed by Assessment Council
Organization – Part III

Quality Enhancement Plan Development Committee (QEPDC)

Conceive and draft the QEP

Ensure involvement of university community
Organization – Part IV

FGCU Office of Planning and Institutional Performance

- Provide logistical support to the reaffirmation process
- Develop Accreditation Management System (AMS)
- Provide user permissions, guidance, and support for AMS
Compliance Certification Elements

There are 90+ requirements/standards to be addressed
Compliance Certification Areas

These standards relate to:

Degree-granting Authority
Institutional Governance
Institutional Mission
Institutional Effectiveness
Qualifications of Faculty and Staff
Curriculum
Academic Support
Infrastructure
Athletics
Student Affairs
Finances
The response to each standard and requirement is comprised of a narrative statement and supporting documentation demonstrating compliance.

The completion of the compliance certification was coordinated through the Office of Planning and Institutional Performance under the supervision of the University’s appointed SACSCOC accreditation liaison, Senior Associate Provost, Dr. Paul Snyder.
Compliance Certification Actions Taken

Completed over the last two years:

Determined who should be assigned responsibility for completing the responses, what was needed for completion, timeline for receipt of completed responses

Created a library of SACSCOC resource materials

Developed an Accreditation Management System using existing MS SharePoint web application framework for group work on the responses

Assembled responses to all 90+ standards and requirements and reviewed them
Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

Work on the QEP began two years ago

After a comprehensive, inclusive, and transparent solicitation and vetting process a topic was selected

“The University-wide Writing, Critical Thinking, and Information Literacy Initiative”

QEP development committee was appointed and is led by Dr. Jim Wohlpart, Dean of Undergraduate Studies
# QEP Development Committee (QEPDC)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department/Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Aho</td>
<td>College of Arts and Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Bledsoe</td>
<td>Writing Center</td>
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<td>Anne-Marie Bouche</td>
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<td>Anna Carlin</td>
<td>Library Services</td>
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<td>Sarah Davis</td>
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<td>Jackie Greene</td>
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<td>Anna Haney-Withrow</td>
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<td>Kris de Welde</td>
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<td>Carrie Kerekes</td>
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<td>Tanya Kunberger</td>
<td>U.A. Whitaker College of Engineering</td>
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<td>Jameson Moschella</td>
<td>University Housing/FYRE Program</td>
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<td>Stacey Parker</td>
<td>Center for Academic Achievement</td>
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<td>Linda Rowland</td>
<td>College of Arts and Sciences</td>
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<td>Linda Serro</td>
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<td>Jim Wohlpart (Chair)</td>
<td>Dean of Undergraduate Studies</td>
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The QEPDC is responsible for developing a Quality Enhancement Plan for FGCU that will meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrates institutional capability
- Includes broad-based involvement of institutional constituencies
- Identifies goals and develops an assessment plan

The QEPDC may organize its work in any way necessary to achieve these goals and ensure compliance with the submission date set by the Commission on Colleges of SACS.
Preliminary Steps in the Reaffirmation Process

Submit Compliance Certification

Off-site review by a group of peers selected by SACSCOC

Preliminary determination of compliance for each requirement and standard

Report from off-site team will be shared with us indicating where additional information is needed to demonstrate compliance
FGCU will prepare a focused report addressing any areas of non-compliance or recommendations contained in the report of the off-site review team.

Must be submitted six weeks prior to the on-site review.

The QEP is also submitted at this time.

QEP reviewed by a QEP subject expert (whom we identify) during the on-site review.
**On-Site Review Dates and Follow-Up**

**On-Site Review Team:**
- 8-10 peer reviewers
- SACSCOC VP assigned to FGCU
- 3 days on campus
- review off-site team findings
- review of documentation
- interviews with administration, trustees, faculty, staff, and students
- review of the QEP
- provide a verbal summary of findings

Followed by a written report within 30 days of the visit

The University will then have until the beginning of September 2015 to demonstrate in writing compliance with any standard or requirement determined to be not in compliance that is noted in the report

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Final Review by SACSCOC Board of Trustees

- Final briefs are prepared by the on-site review team’s chair and by the SACSCOC VP assigned to FGCU
- Briefs, on-site review team report, and QEP are shared with a Committee on Compliance and Reports (SACSCOC Standing Committee)
- A recommendation goes to the SACSCOC Trustee’s Executive Council
- The recommendation is finalized and voted on at the annual meeting in December 2015
- FGCU is formally notified of this action by letter from Belle Wheelan, Executive Director of the Commission, in early January 2016
Consequences of a Negative Action

• The university would be given no more than two years to demonstrate compliance

• If FGCU failed to be reaffirmed and subsequently lost its accreditation:
  • The University would lose its eligibility to participate in Federal financial aid programs (Title IV)
    – A loss of $66 million in annual revenue
  • Our institutional reputation would suffer
  • FGCU might be forced to close its doors