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| Reaffirmation of Accreditation Status with the  Southern Association of Colleges & Schools – Commission on Colleges  Progress Report for the Appalachian State University Board of Trustees | March 23, 2012 | |
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| **Overview & Leadership**  The re-affirmation of our accreditation status includes two major components: a **Compliance Certification** with extensive evidence that we meet eighty Principles of Accreditation, and a **Quality Enhancement Plan** designed to improve the learning experience of all students. The topic of our Quality Enhancement Plan is ***Global Learning***.  Oversight of the process is provided by a SACS Leadership Team of our chancellor, provost, faculty member Dr. Robin Byerly, associate professor in Management, and SACS Liaison Dr. Bobby Sharp, director of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Planning.  The Compliance Certification effort is led by Georgie Donovan, associate professor in the University Library, with thirteen sub-committees comprised of faculty, staff, and administrators. The Quality Enhancement Plan is co-chaired by Dr. Tony Carey, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Dr. Jesse Lutabingwa, International Education & Development. They work with a leadership team of three others, and in collaboration with a committee structure comprised of dozens of faculty, students, staff, and administrators. | *September 2012*  Compliance Certification submitted to SACS  for offsite review  *February 2013*  Quality Enhancement Plan  submitted to SACS  *April 2013*  Onsite review committee  visits Appalachian campus  *December 2013*  Reaffirmation decision  announced |
| **Compliance Certification**  Appalachian State is in compliance with all of the standards required in the SACSCOC *Principles of Accreditation.* However, the primary challenge for all institutions undergoing this process lies in providing documentation which unequivocally demonstrates our compliance. Accreditation standards cover a wide range of issues including governance, financial and physical resources of the institution, curriculum at every level, faculty credentials, and strong support services for learning, research, and accomplishment of our mission.  Committees recently finished drafting the Compliance Certification report, with 300 pages of text and 1,500 pieces of evidence to document our case for compliance. In the five months remaining, we will review the report for clarity and accuracy, include up-to-date documents, and ask stakeholders on campus – and peer reviewers off-campus – to read and edit sections of the report.  One challenge in preparing the report has been providing documentation of assessment activities across a broad range of campus units. While faculty, staff, and administrators across the university consistently use data to inform their decisions, we haven’t always documented the improvements made through our analysis of assessment data in a single clearinghouse so that external reviewers could easily see the results of our assessment efforts. We now have a stronger campus-wide system for recording both assessment results and improvements made based on the analysis of those results. | |
| **Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)**  The focus of Appalachian’s QEP is global learning. We intend for students to achieve three primary goals as a result of the QEP: they will engage in diverse experiences at home and abroad to increase their knowledge of global issues, regions, and cultures; improve their intercultural skills; and demonstrate global citizenship.  The QEP Leadership Team has met with fifty academic departments and units on campus in the past six months. Through their communication with students, faculty, and staff, they’ve developed six activity goals for the QEP to tackle:   * Improve Administration and Coordination of International Efforts * Increase Long-Term Study Abroad and Strengthen Short-Term Study Abroad * Globalize Curricula * Globalize Co-Curricular Activities * Increase Number of International Faculty & Students * Expand Global Internships, Service Learning, and Research   Actions have been proposed to accomplish each of these activity goals. The next steps are to finalize actions for the Plan, and to create a full draft of the QEP for the SACS review committee and for digestion by the campus as a whole. | |