Minutes of the Mission Statement Committee

September 21, 2009

The SACS Mission Statement Committee met on September 21, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in the Chancellor’s Conference Room, Dr. Bertha Miller, presiding. Dr. Miller reminded the members the committee’s responsibility is to be ambassadors to ensure faculty, staff, and students know our mission statement, and to assure that the university is in compliance with SACS standards regarding the mission statement.

Committee Members in attendance:

Dr. Oliver Johnson, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work
Ms. Vicki McKenzie, Transfer and Advisement Center
Ms. Nikki Polk, Senior, Honors’ Program Representative
Dr. Angela Taylor, Assistant Professor, Department of Criminal Justice
Mr. Joseph Vittorelli, Director of IT Infrastructure and Assistant Committee Chair

Vicki McKenzie volunteered to be the Recorder for the committee’s meetings.

Dr. Miller identified the group assignments for examining and writing a response to the standard:

Group 1 - Clearly Defined Mission appropriate to the institution’s collegiate role – Dr. Jimmie Williams, Group Leader
Group 2 – Development of the Mission statement and periodic review – Mr. Vittorelli, Group Leader
Group 3 – Mission serves as the foundation for all institutional operations – Dr. Taylor, Group Leader, and Dr. Johnson

Dr. Miller led the committee in a more detailed review of some portions of the SACS Compliance Audit Committee Handbook. Emphasis focused on Core Requirement 2.4 -- “a clearly defined, comprehensive, and published mission statement” – and Comprehensive Standard 3.1 – The Institutional Mission, ensuring “The mission statement is current, comprehensive, accurately guides the institutions operations…” Or, in Dr. Miller’s words, “What you are telling me; what you are doing; and evidence of what you say you are doing.” Dr. Miller also pointed out Section 5 of the Handbook contains sample responses to mission statements and a copy of FSU’s response to the Mission statement in 2001.

Phase II Campus Response to the University of North Carolina Tomorrow (Section 2) shows the types of activities carried out by various departments. Every unit must develop an operational plan and hopefully quarterly reports showing correlations of the Strategic Priorities (which are 1) Retention and Graduation Rates; 2) Economic Transformation; 3) Intellectual and Cultural Center; 4) Leaders and Global Citizens; 5) Collaborations and Partnerships; and 6) Fiscal Resourcefulness and Sustainability) to UNC Tomorrow, and the FSU Mission statement. Dr. Miller suggested that the committee look at section 2 in the
Handbook, especially 5.1, Mission Review, and 5.2, Tenure, Promotion, and Incentive System. Unit operational plans must be submitted to Dr. Marion Gillis-Olion by the September 30 deadline.

Discussion followed on evidences found and needed for the group assignments which should also include such items as documentation of news sources concerning FSU and BRAC (Base Closure and Realignment Commission); the Fulbright Scholars; The Southeastern NC Regional Election Microprobe Facility, a joint project between FSU and UNC-P; and the DNA sequencer.

Mr. Vitorelli noted that there will be Xitracs Software Training to Support the SACS Self-Study on Friday morning, September 25. Dr. Miller will provide the registration information for the committee’s secretary. Mr. Vittorelli explained that Xitracs will compile data entered into the format required by SACS.

The committee shared ways to communicate the mission statement to the campus: Dr. Miller said that Dr. Jimmie Williams has offered a free SPA treatment in a faculty competition to recite the mission statement. Ms. Nikki Polk, our student representative, noted that students do like incentives, and that they may respond to a large sign in the Student Center.

Other suggestions offered included:

- Signs displaying parts of the Mission statement placed in a progression around campus
- Signs placed in the Rudolph Jones Student Center
- Offer incentives for students to learn the Mission statement
  - “Man-on-the-street” gives prize to student who can recite
- Laminated card with the Mission statement and on the back and the six priorities on the other side
- Channel 12 scroll
- Radio spots
  - Recruit Performing and Fine Arts and Foreign Language faculty/students to record a song about the mission statement

Our first task is to assure that we are in compliance with the SACS Standards for 2.4 and 3.1. The first drafts showing this compliance should be compiled with documentation by Homecoming Weekend of October 24, 2009.

The committee will meet next on Monday, October 5th at 2:00 p.m. in the Chancellor’s Conference Room. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Vicki McKenzie, Recording Secretary