

**Board of Trustees  
University Affairs Committee  
SACS FIFTH-YEAR INTERIM REPORT**

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September 11, 2015



North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University



North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

## Accreditation (SACS)

### Why?

- ✦ Validation of Institutional 'health'
- ✦ Ongoing collective process
- ✦ Are we fulfilling our mission in a systematic way, documenting our progress, and improving based on what we learn from the data?
- ✦ Quality Enhancement
- ✦ Benefits to the institution:
  - ✦ Attract excellent students
  - ✦ Acquire quality faculty
  - ✦ Bring in federal dollars
  - ✦ Compete for quality administrators



## Accreditation (SACS)

### Southern Association of Colleges & Schools Commission on Colleges

- ✦ USDE (U.S. Department of Education) & CHEA (Council for Higher Education Accreditation) are the accreditors' accreditor
- ✦ Intensive process of self-study by ALL units
- ✦ Guided by SACS standards and accreditor questions
- ✦ Led by mission of the University
- ✦ Objective of self-study:
  - ✦ Do we meet the standards?
  - ✦ Are we in compliance?



## Accreditation is an ongoing process

### Why?

- ✦ Benefits on the road to compliance:
  - ✦ How healthy are degree programs?
    - ✦ Are they growing and graduating students successfully?
    - ✦ Are faculty in the program engaging and challenging students to demonstrate their learning in the discipline?
    - ✦ Are faculty engaged in critical research related to the discipline?
    - ✦ Can students apply what they learn from the institution?
    - ✦ Are students demonstrating their knowledge of the discipline by continuing their education in graduate studies or finding employment in their field?
  - ✦ How effective are non-instructional units and services in addressing student needs?
  - ✦ Is there a continuous improvement process?
    - ✦ Introspective problem-solving based on self-study and data
    - ✦ Action Plans to improve and enhance the quality of education
    - ✦ Did they work?



## The Role of the Accreditor (SACS)

- ✦ Initial accreditation, then 5<sup>th</sup> year interim reports and 10 year Reaffirmation
- ✦ Validate our self-study process and the conclusions (veracity)
- ✦ Institutions write a report based on self-study on the 5<sup>th</sup> year and the 10<sup>th</sup> year
- ✦ The 5<sup>th</sup> year peer evaluation of the report is completely off-site, followed by a review by the Commission (No referral/referral to SACS Compliance & Review Committee)
- ✦ (Referral can lead to additional reports/monitoring reports/sanctions/visit to campus)
- ✦ The 10<sup>th</sup> year peer evaluation of the report is followed by a campus visit



## Standards Reviewed

- ✦ CR 2.8 Number of full-time faculty
- ✦ CR 2.10 Student support services
- ✦ CS 3.2.8 Qualified administrative and academic officers
- ✦ CS 3.3.1.1 Institutional effectiveness: Educational programs
- ✦ CS 3.4.3 Admissions policies
- ✦ CS 3.4.11 Qualified academic program coordinators
- ✦ CS 3.11.3 Physical facilities
- ✦ FR 4.1 Student achievement
- ✦ FR 4.2 Program curriculum
- ✦ FR 4.3 publication of policies
- ✦ FR 4.4 Program length
- ✦ FR 4.5 Student complaints
- ✦ FR 4.6 Recruitment materials
- ✦ FR 4.7/CS 3.10.2 Title IV program responsibilities/financial aid audits
- ✦ FR 4.8 Distance and correspondence education
- ✦ FR 4.9 Definition of credit hours
- ✦ CS 3.13 Policy compliance
- ✦ QEP – Quality Enhancement Plan



## Accreditation is an Opportunity

- ✦ The value of assessment comes through only if we make it real and useful in our work.
- ✦ The push for assessment and data is only the symptom. The essential challenge is to improve how we conduct business in higher education.
- ✦ What matters is not just knowledge but also the application of knowledge.
- ✦ “Assessment is effective for promoting greater thoughtfulness and purpose in teaching – and for focusing our attention on learning.”



## How are we doing?

- ✦ September 2015 – 75% of first drafts and content
- ✦ October 1, 2015 – Complete action items recommended by Institutional Effectiveness Committee
- ✦ November 1, 2015 – Return to Standard Chairs for final review and recommendation (compliance); Follow up revisions
- ✦ December 1, 2015 – Send to external consultant for review and recommendations for improvement
- ✦ January 10, 2016 -- Submit to Chancellor Martin and Provost Whitehead for review
- ✦ February 2016 – Thorough copy editing, links, attachments, cohesive document preparation
- ✦ March 1, 2016 – SUBMIT!
- ✦ April 2, 2016 – Planning for SACS Reaffirmation 2020



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Office of Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness (OSPIE)

[www.ncat.edu](http://www.ncat.edu)