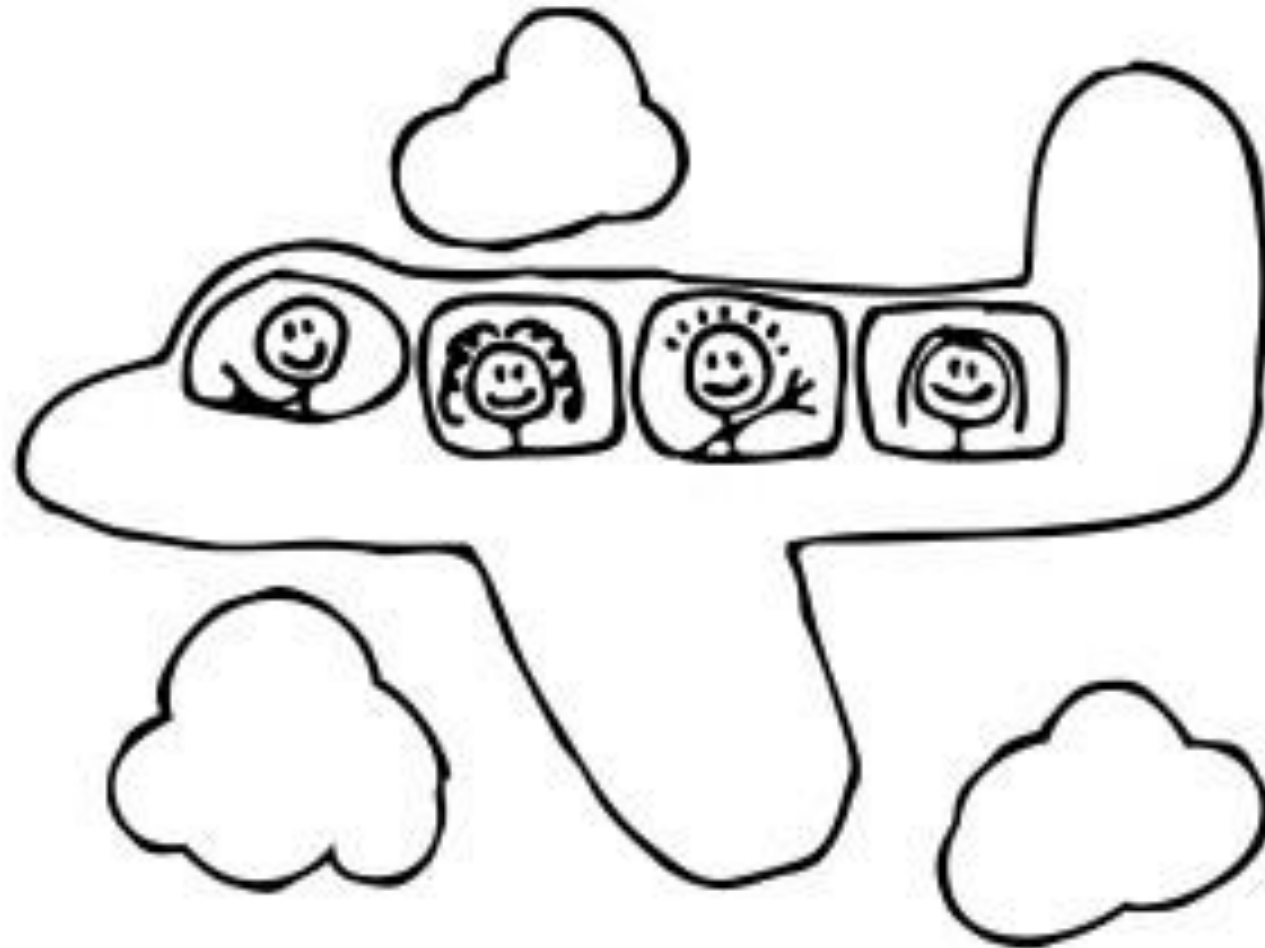


In flight SACSCOC briefing...

January 9, 2017

Session Goal: SACSCOC Overview



Three types of accrediting bodies

- National

Accredits institutions that usually have a single purpose and are located anywhere in the country

- Regional

Accredits institutions that are located within a specific geographic area of the country

Regional accrediting agencies: Middle States, New England, North Central, Northwestern, Southern, Western

- Specialized or Programmatic

Accredits programs within an institution

Regionals continued

- Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (C-RAC)

CEO's and Board Chairs of each Commission on Council to

- ✓ ensure common policies and forms, common responses to US Dept. of Education and Congress,
- ✓ ensure common responses to US Dept. of Education and Congress
- ✓ Work with National Associations
- ✓ Work with International Associations

The Council develops common responses to national issues such as credit hour, state authorization,... and common definitions of terms such as warning and probation.

SACSCOC

- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
- How do you “say” SACSCOC?
- Regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states - includes eleven states, Latin America and a few international sites.

SACSCOC

The SACSCOC reaffirmation process is designed to provide consistent guidelines for professional peer review, representing the collective judgement of the membership on standards appropriate for the assurance of quality in higher education. The process also includes monitoring of federal requirements.

The peer review process assesses institutions to identify their educational strengths and weaknesses.

SACSCOC relationship

Vernon College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Vernon College.

Vernon College

- Reaffirmation Class of 2019
- Accreditation Track A – Award undergraduate degrees only
- Level I – Associate’s degree highest degree offered
- Successfully completed Fifth-Year Interim Report for 2014 – letter received January 2016

Reaffirmation process

- Leadership Orientation – December 2016 during SACSCOC Annual Meeting
- Advisory Visit from SACSCOC Vice President – requested January 2018
- Completion of a Compliance Certification (10 year report) – due March 2018
- Off-Site Committee Review – April or May 2018
- Quality Enhancement Plan – due Summer 2018
- Focused Report – in response to Off-Site Committee concerns

Reaffirmation process continued

- On-Site Reaffirmation Committee Review: QEP, Non-compliance Issues, Selected issues for US Department of Education (Federal Requirements)– October 23-25, 2018, PLANNING STARTS NOW
- Response Report – to address concerns of On-site Reaffirmation Committee review
- C&R (Compliance and Reports) Committee Review – generally in December, 2018
- Executive Council Review – generally in December, 2018
- SACSCOC Board of Trustees Approval – June, 2019

Principles of Accreditation

- Principle of Integrity
- Core Requirement - Governance, Administrative Structure, Mission, Curriculum, Learning Resources, Student Support Services, Financial and Physical Resources, Faculty, Evaluation and Planning, Quality Enhancement Plan
- Comprehensive Standards - Same as above but in further detail
- Federal Requirements - Student achievement, complaints, publication of policies

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

Each institution seeking reaffirmation of Accreditation is required to develop a Quality Enhancement Plan carefully designed to address a well-defined topic or issue(s) related to enhancing student learning. The plan must be focused, succinct and limited in length.

Other types of information to SACSCOC

- Substantive Changes

 - Mergers and consolidations

 - Institutional name changes

 - Instructional sites

 - New degrees and programs

 - Distance learning

 - Changes in governance

- Names of new presidents and liaisons

- Institutional Profile

Why accreditation?

- In addition to the assurance of quality in higher education and compliance with federal requirements, SACSCOC accreditation provides Vernon College with the opportunity to...

transfer courses

administer financial aid

apply/qualify for grants

plus more...

Who is involved?

- **SACSCOC Leadership Team** – Dr. Dusty Johnston, Dr. Gary Don Harkey, Bettye Hutchins, Criquett Lehman, Garry David, Jim Nordone and Betsy Harkey (SACSCOC Liaison)
- **SACSCOC Oversight Committee** – College Effectiveness Committee
- All employees along with input from students, the Board of Trustees and other constituents.

Timeline...where are we now?

- Participating in SACSCOC Annual Meetings, Summer Quality Enhancement Institutes, Off-Site and On-Site reviews
- Orientation for the Class of 2019 –completed
- Completion of draft narratives for Compliance Certification Report – most completed
- Beginning final narratives for Compliance Certification Report
- Catalog, Handbooks and Policy updates review for “final” 2017-2018 documents to be approved by Board of Trustees in Spring and Summer 2017
- College Effectiveness/SACSCOC Committee begin review of final narratives in Spring 2017

Timeline...where are we now?

- QEP – in really good hands!
- Primary writing of the QEP document and timeline will be in Spring and Summer 2017

The big stuff 😊

Must be able to prove that Vernon College

has policies and procedures

periodically reviews/updates/changes the policies and procedures

approves the policies and procedures

publishes the policies and procedures

can provide evidence/artifacts that the policies and procedures are consistently followed

More big stuff...

Vernon College must be able to prove that we have

a planning process (Institutional Effectiveness and Annual Action Plans)

the planning process seeks input from internal and external constituents

the planning process is tied to the budget

the planning process includes Mission based objectives/outcomes, assessment of the objectives/outcomes, and implemented use of results for improvement based on the assessment

Even more big stuff...

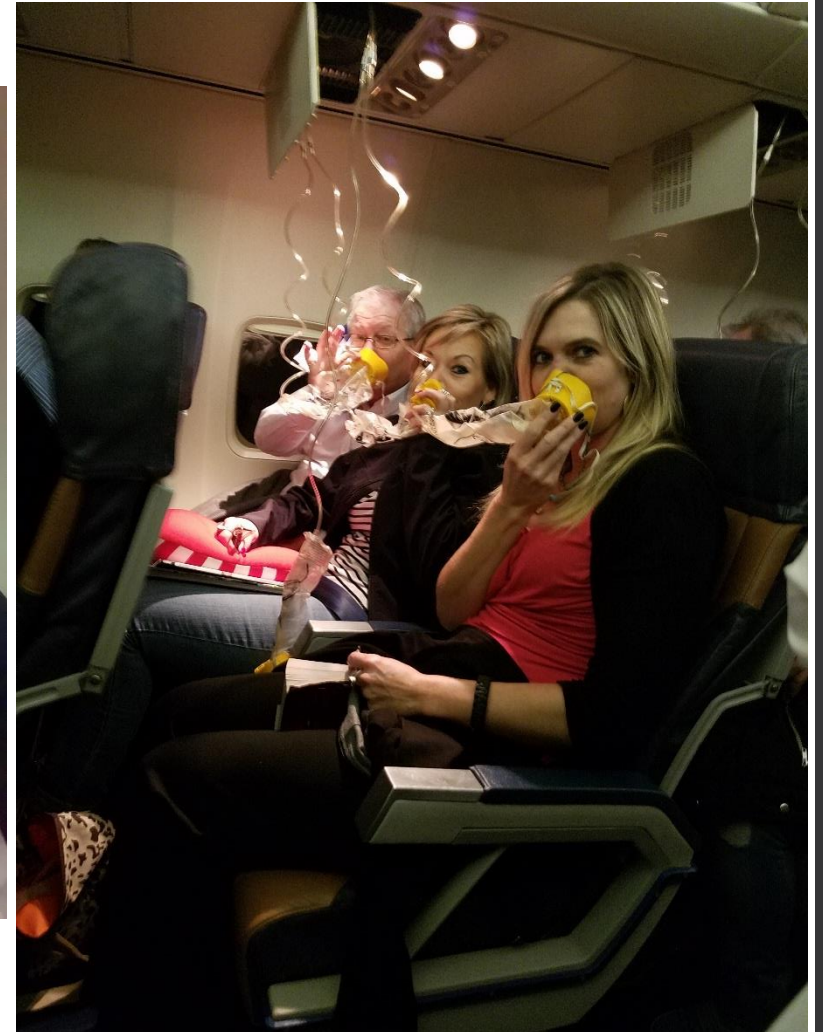
All roads lead to the
Vernon College Mission
(not just the mission
statement).

And even more big stuff...

What would you do at/for
Vernon College if someone
gave you \$10,000,000?

Goals for the Vernon College SACSCOC process

Not this...



Goals for the Vernon College SACSCOC process...

THIS



And this



Questions?

Betsy Harkey

Director of Institutional Effectiveness/SACSCOC Liaison

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