



SACS COC Names Reaffirmation Officials

President Kenneth Walker recently received notification from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS COC) that **Andrew Fulp**, Dean of Online Program Development at the Savannah College of Art and Design, will Chair the SACS COC review team charged with assessing Edison's compliance with accreditation requirements, including our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) now under development.

Dean Fulp brings a rich background in online program development

and delivery, communication arts and academic leadership to the reaffirmation process. He holds a Master of Fine Art degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design, and a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

SACS COC Vice President **Dr. Barry D. Goldstein** has been appointed as Edison's staff liaison. Dr. Goldstein will work closely with Dr. Walker and the executive team in all aspects of the reaffirmation process, including the November 8-10, 2011 on-site visit.

Dr. Goldstein received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Adelphi University in 1975, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Pharmacology from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in 1979. He completed post-doctoral training as a Research Associate at the University of Illinois School of Medicine and joined the faculty of the Medical College of Georgia in August 1981. A series of career advances followed, culminating in his appointment as Provost in 2003. Upon his retirement this Fall, he joined the Commission staff.

Save that Document!

The reaffirmation process is grounded in integrity and credibility. Please make certain that all documents you produce are accurate, up-to-date, available in digital format and organized by topic or date. Examples include:

- Unit mission and goals
- Meeting minutes
- Newsletters
- Planning documents
- Survey results
- Evidence of assessment (to include learning outcomes, assessment tools and results)
- Use of assessment results
- Documents that link programs/activity to outcomes
- Attendance/ Participation statistics
- Professional activities (e.g. professional development, conferences, training, certifications)

From our Accreditation Liaison, Dr. Steve Atkins



Dr. Steve Atkins

This week I will be attending the 115th Annual Meeting of SACS COC, along with several other members of our faculty and administration. We look forward to sharing what we've learned during the January 2011 Professional Development Days.

An area of keen interest continues to be the most frequently cited non-compliance findings. A formal study was undertaken in 2006, when institutions were transitioning to the new set of accreditation requirements. At that time, there were six standards for which at least 50% of the institutions participating in off-site reviews received a non-compliance finding: 3.7.1 Faculty Qualifications, 3.3.1 Institutional Effectiveness, 3.5.1 CS General Education Competencies, 3.4.1 Programs Approved by Faculty/Learning Outcomes, 2.11 Resources, and 3.2.10 Evaluation of Administrators. While long term inferences cannot be drawn from the study, we continue to hear that these remain areas of concern.

Perhaps the more important lesson is that off-site "non-compliant" findings are frequently changed to "compliant" by on-site committees. Because the compliance certification document is submitted electronically, off-site reviewers verify narratives through documentation presented as embedded links. So not only is it imperative that each narrative clearly and succinctly addresses the respective core requirement, comprehensive standard, federal requirement and all subparts, all appended documents must be easy to access and easy to read. We are working hard to highlight relevant passages of policies, Catalog pages, reports and other documentation. It's a team effort, and I am most appreciative of everyone's continuing cooperation and support.

Stay Informed!

Updates will be continually posted to our accreditation web pages, <http://www.edison.edu/accreditation/>



Mark Your Calendar!

The SACS COC onsite visit will be
November 8, 9, & 10, 2011