

Winston-Salem State University SACS Self-Study Update April 1999

Serving as SACS Observers. Drs.Carolynn Berry and Merdis McCarter visited Kentucky State University (KSU) March 29-April 1, 1999 as part of a SACS Visiting Team. As observers, they were able to participate in a reaffirmation committee visit by a SACS team to another campus. In this, they sat in on interviews with administrators, faculty, staff, in on interviews with administrators, faculty, staff, and students. Student athletes were one of the key groups team members interviewed. Team members were interested in whether special consideration was given to athletes in terms of classes, financial aid, and other amenities. A wide range of nonstudent athletes were also interviewed advising, computing, technology, facilities, resources, and policies and procedures governing a wide range of educational and support activities on campus. KSU is a public, historically black liberal arts and land-grant college with a diverse student body of about 2,300 students.

Insights gained from visits to KSU will enable WSSU to prepare a more comprehensive self-study report. For example every unit at KSU prepared an assessment plan. The plan listed goals, assessment instrument, criteria for success, and the use of results for improvement. Faculty and staff who were asked about their unit plans were able to discuss the details of their plans. Students were knowledgeable about aspects of the institution's operations that affected them directly (i.e., advising, financial, language proficiency of their professor, etc.).

WSSU institutional Self-Study Report. A three member leadership team will compile preliminary draft of university self-study report during the month of April. members of the team include the two co-directors of the Self-Study--DRS. Barry and McCarter and the editor, Dr. Rebecca Wall. this team will take the chapters provide by the nine principal committees, refine revise as needed, and prepare a preliminary draft report. The report will be prepared April 7-30, 1999. As each of the 6 chapters of the report is complete, copies will be sent to the 24 member Steering Committee for review. The role of this committee is to oversee the self-study process. A faculty forum will be held May 11, 1999 at 11:00a.m.- 1:30 p.m. Prior to this date, faculty will asked to read only one chapter of the report, evaluate the chapter against a set of criteria and assigned to a discussing group for the evaluation of the chapter at the May 11 Forum. A similar procedure will be used to prepare staff and students participate in forums on self-study. The staff forum will held in June 1999; the student in September 1999.

Beginning with this column, we will feature one section of the report in critical criteria (standards) in the institution must meet to be reaffirmed. Since the evaluation to the extent to which the institution is effectively achieving its mission and goal is discussed in every chapter, this column will focus on section 2 of the report; **Institution Purpose**. Central to our purpose is our mission statement.

Mission Statement

Winston Salem;em State is a public university whose primary mission is to offer high quality educational programs baccalaureate level for diverse and motivated students. Master's and intermediate level programs for professional study are also available in the Winston Salem State University GRaduate Center through inter-institutional agreements while the primary focus is on teaching and learning the university encourages scholarship and creative activities by faculty and students and engages in mutually beneficial relationships with the community in ways which compliment its educational mission.

The academic program comprises three components--general education, specialized education, and continuing education.

* The area of general education provides for all students the academic foundations and cultural experiences essential to a liberal arts education.

*The area of specialized education provides students with the experiences necessary to master an academic disciplines in preparation for graduate and professional schools and/or employment. In this regard the university has a special role to offer professional programs especially relevant to the health sciences.

* The area of continuing education offers individuals opportunities to enrich life or improve vocational status through constant, periodic or occasional study.

Must/Should Statements in Section II Relating to Institutional Mission/Purpose.

M1. An institution **must** have a clearly defined purpose or mission statement appropriate to collegiate education as well as to its own specific educational role.

M2. This statement **must** describe the institution and its characteristics and address the components of the institution and its operations.

M3. The official posture and practice of the institution **must** be consistent with its purpose statement.

M4. Appropriate publications **must** accurately cite the current statement of purpose.

S5. It *should* be developed through the efforts of the institution's faculty, administration and governing board.

M6. It **must** be approved by the governing board.

M7. An institution **must** study periodically its statement of purpose, considering internal changes as well as the changing responsibilities of the institution to its constituencies.

M8. The institution **must** demonstrate than its planning and evaluation processes, educational programs, educational support services, financial and physical resources, and administrative processes are adequate and appropriate to fulfill its stated purpose.

Essay Contest

Students are asked to read the mission statement and the first **MUST** statement (M1). Then, in your own words, write an essay using 200 words or less to answer the following questions:

1. Does the mission clearly define the purpose of the institution? Give two or more reasons to support your answer.
2. Which party of the mission affects you the most? Explain

Completed essays should be typed and submitted to Dr. Merdis McCarter in Blair Hall, room 202, by May 7, 1999. The winner will receive a \$10 cash prize and the winning essay will be included in the next WSSU SACS Self-Study Update.