REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION FROM THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS COMMISSION ON COLLEGES (SACSCOC)

OVERVIEW FOR DCCCCD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Presented by: Don Perry, Executive Director, Compliance
Goals of Work Session

• Understanding the steps involved in the reaffirmation process
• Understanding the role of the institution’s board in the reaffirmation process
• Understanding the requirements of each of the sections in the *Principles of Accreditation*
• Understanding the possible outcomes
Steps in the Reaffirmation Process

- The institution develops responses and provides evidence of compliance for the Compliance Certification document covering 95 individual Principles
- An Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee Reviews the Compliance Certification & issues a report
- The Institutional can provide a response to the findings via a Focused Report
- The On-Site Reaffirmation Committee reviews the QEP, assesses outstanding compliance problems; conducts interviews; and issues its Report
- Action by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees
Reaffirmation for DCCCD Colleges

We are rather unique along with Alamo Community College District in that “DCCCD” as a “district” is not accredited.

Each individual college is separately accredited.

All seven colleges are on the same 10 year cycle for reaffirmation.
Reaffirmation Process Timeline

Spring & Summer 2010
Development of district level responses & identification of evidence of compliance for each college to use in its completion of the Compliance Certification document.

Fall 2010
Each college began its internal process for developing responses and identification of evidence for compliance.
Reaffirmation Process Timeline

January 31, 2011
SACSCOC staff provided an orientation for institutional leadership teams in Atlanta, Ga.

March 15, 2012
Compliance Certification due

May 8 – 11, 2012
Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee Review in Atlanta, Ga.
Reaffirmation Process Timeline

6 Weeks Prior to On-Site Review
Focused Report & Quality Enhancement Plan

On-Site Visits
Mountain View College  >  Sept. 25–27
Brookhaven College     >  Oct. 9 – 11
Cedar Valley College   >  Oct. 16 – 18
Eastfield College      >  Oct. 16 – 18
El Centro College      >  Oct. 23 – 25
North Lake College     >  Oct. 29 – Nov. 01
Richland College       >  Nov. 13 – 15
Reaffirmation Process Timeline

June 18 – 20, 2013
Review and Vote by SACSCOC Board of Trustees

Possible Action:
1. Reaffirmation – no further action
2. Reaffirmation – Annual Monitoring Report
3. Denial – continued accreditation with 1 year Warning followed by Probation 2nd year if non-compliance issue is not resolved
4. Removal of Membership – Appealable

December 2013 - SACSCOC Annual Meeting
Official announcement of Reaffirmation status
Principles of Accreditation

• The requirements and standards which institutions must meet to become members and remain members

• Developed by committees or task forces consisting of representatives of member institutions

• Can be changed only by vote of College Delegate Assembly at annual meeting
Principles of Accreditation

- Section 1 – Principle of Integrity
- Section 2 – Core Requirements (CR)
- Section 3 – Comprehensive Standards (CS)
  - Same as above but in further detail
- Section 4 – Federal Requirements (FR)
  - Student achievement, complaints, publication of policies, student authentication, credit hour, state authorization
Board Status/Structure

*Is the legal body with authority over institution.*

*Minimum of five members.*

*Not controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations/interests separate from it.* (CR 2.2)
Role of the Institution’s Board

- *Policy-making body*

- *Hire, Evaluate and, when necessary, Fire the CEO*
Role of the Board

Select and evaluate the CEO

[The governing board is responsible for the selection and the periodic evaluation of the chief executive officer]. (CS 3.2.1)
Role of the Institution’s Board

Complementary but separate duties

[Clear and appropriate distinction, in writing & in practice, between policy-making function of board & responsibility of administration & faculty to implement policy]. (CS 3.2.6)
Role of the Board

Protect institution from undue influence

[Maintain freedom from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies and protects the institution from such influence]. (CS 3.2.4)
Conflict of interest

[Presiding officer of the board & a majority of the other voting members of the board are free of any contractual, employment, or personal or familial financial interest in the institution]. (CS 2.2)
Role of the Board

**Board member dismissal**

[Policy whereby board members can be dismissed only for appropriate reasons and by a fair process]. (CS 3.2.5)
Role of the Board

**Ensuring adequate financial resources and stability** *(CR 2.2; CR 2.11.1; CS 3.10.1)*

**Provide appropriate financial statements** *(CR 2.11.1; CS 3.10.3; FR 4.7)*
Role of the Board

Responsibility & authority of faculty

[Policies on the responsibility and authority of faculty in governance and academic matters]. (CR2.2 & CS 3.7.5)
Role of the Board

Academic freedom

[Ensures adequate procedures for safeguarding and protecting academic freedom]. (CS 3.7.4)