Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)

AN OVERVIEW
GOALS OF WORKSHOP

- Overview of accreditation in general and of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission Colleges (SACSCOC) specifically

- Understanding the requirements of each of the *Principles of Accreditation* and the role of the institution’s board in the accreditation process
TYPES OF ACCREDITING AGENCIES

- National Agencies
  Accredit institutions of higher education that have a single focus irrespective of location

- Regional Agencies
  Accredit all aspects of an institution of higher education in specific regions

- Specialized or Professional Agencies
  Accredit programs within institutions
REGIONAL ACCREDITATION PURPOSES

- Improve Quality throughout the institution

- Assure the public that institutions meet established standards

- Serve as a “gate-keeper” for federal financial aid
Characteristics of Regional Accreditation

- Comprehensive, Periodic Review
- Focus on Institution-Wide Goals, Processes, Outcomes
- Related to Institutional Purpose and Mission
- Regional in Scope
- Voluntary
- Non-Governmental
- Decentralized National System
- Non-Profit
SIX REGIONAL ACCREDITING ASSOCIATIONS
## Number of Institutions By Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SACSCOC</td>
<td>796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle States</td>
<td>523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western (Jr. &amp; Sr.)</td>
<td>319</td>
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<tr>
<td>New England</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>162</td>
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</table>
C–RAC

Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions

This is a group composed of the president or director of each of the regional accrediting associations.
Oversight of Commission Activities

- Review by U.S. Department of Education based on recognition standards
- Recommendation by DOE to National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) (Appointed group of educators and public members)
- NACIQI makes recommendation to recognize or not recognize an accrediting agency to U.S. Secretary of Education
Commission on Colleges Structure

College Delegate Assembly
CEO’s of Member Institutions

Appeals Committee

Board of Trustees
77 Members

Executive Council
13 Members

Committees on Compliance and Reports
Elected and Appointed Members
SACSCOC Board of Trustees

- 77 persons (called Trustees)
- Three institutional representatives from each state (33)
- One public member from each state (11)
- One international member
- Thirty-two at large representatives from member institutions (32)
- They represent public and private institutions
- They represent all levels of member institutions
- Meet twice a year in June and in December
- They may be presidents, other administrators, faculty from member institutions.
Some decisions affecting an institution are appealable, e.g., withdrawal from membership. When an institution appeals, the Appeals Committee meets to hear the appeal.
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.
Principles of Accreditation

- Principle of Integrity
- Core Requirements (CR)
- Comprehensive Standards (CS)
  - Same as above but in further detail
- Federal Requirements (FR)
  - Student achievement, complaints, publication of policies, student authentication, credit hour, state authorization
Reaffirmation Process

- Leadership Orientation
- Compliance Certification
- Off-Site Committee Review
- Focused Report
- On-Site Committee Review
  - QEP
  - Non-Compliance Issues
  - Selected Issues for US DOE
- C&R Committee Review
- Executive Council Review
- Board Approval
ROLES OF THE BOARD

- Policy-making body
- Hire, Evaluate and, when necessary, Fire the CEO
- Fiduciary responsibility for the institution
UNDERSTANDING YOUR ROLE

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)
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)
Responsibility & authority of faculty

[Policies on the responsibility and authority of faculty in governance and academic matters.]

(CR 2.2 & CS 3.7.5)
ROLES OF THE BOARD

Academic freedom

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

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.] (CR 2.2)
ROLES 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)
Board member dismissal

[Policy whereby board members can be dismissed only for appropriate reasons and by a fair process.] (CS 3.2.5)
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)
Institutional Issues

- Student Success
  - Planning and Assessment
  - Remedial Education
  - Completion/Graduation Rates
  - Retention Rates
  - Program Review
  - Transfer of Credits
SACSCOC

Students Are Central to Success

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