

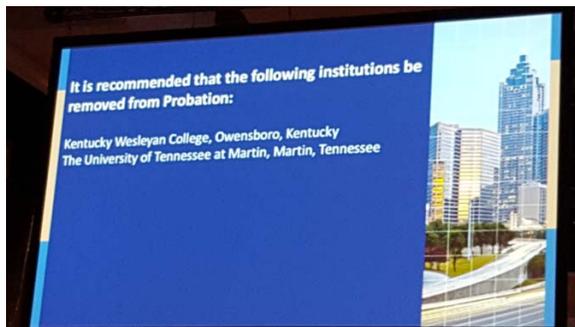
UT MARTIN ASSESSMENT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2016

Removed from Probation!

By now, you have probably heard the good news that we have been officially removed from probation by SACSCOC. UTM could not have done that without all of you! So.....

THANK YOU!!



But We Still Have Work to Do...

Our next major hurdle is the Fifth Year Interim Report, due in mid-March, 2018. The Fifth Year Interim Report covers a subset of 17 of the principles of accreditation, including one of the institutional effectiveness standards that we addressed in our Third Monitoring Report.

In addition, as part of our Fifth Year Interim Report, we have been asked to submit a separate report that will address *all five* of the standards we addressed in our Third Monitoring Report. The SACSCOC Board of Trustees has asked for this report as an assurance that we will continue to assess, collect data, analyze data, make improvements based on the data we have, and close the loop.

What does that mean for you? It means that we need annual reports from you that address every one of your goals and outcomes. You can collect the data every semester or once per year as appropriate, but ***you need to collect data at least once a year for each of your outcomes.*** You need to continue telling your amazing stories of improvement. We will continue to share your stories with SACSCOC.

Workshop January 9, 2017

We are having our next assessment workshop on Monday, January 9, 2017.

- Personnel from **non-academic units** will meet **Monday morning 8-11:30.**
- Personnel from **academic units** will meet **Monday afternoon 1-4:30.**

We will not have an external consultant at this workshop. Instead, Patty Flowers and Stephanie Kolitsch will

- introduce participants to the standards in the Fifth Year Interim Report and discuss your role in completing that report;
- discuss the year's timeline for assessment reporting; and
- introduce participants to a new tool called the Assessment Guidebook.

This will also be **Dr. Keith Carver's first opportunity as our new chancellor** to address our faculty and staff.

Update from the SACSCOC Annual Meeting

SACSCOC has created a Principles Review Committee to review and make recommendations to the *Principles of Accreditation*. This committee gave an

overview of their deliberations to the participants at the Annual Meeting.

In general, the Principles Review Committee is considering the following recommendations:

- Organize the standards contained in the Principles of Accreditation so that standards are arranged by topic. For example, all standards addressing Student Affairs would be grouped together.
- Standards in several topics should be collapsed, revised, or eliminated to remove repetition or to provide clarity.
- Federal requirements should be integrated into the *Principles of Accreditation*.
- Separate standards into those that are applicable to everyone and those that should be applicable only to candidate institutions. For example, in most cases, information that addresses degree-granting authority does not change from year to year for most member institutions. Once a member institution has addressed that information, it should not be required to provide the same information again unless something changes. However, candidate institutions who have not previously provided that information should be required to address those standards.
- The *Resource Manual* that accompanies the *Principles of Accreditation* should be revised and expanded to provide additional information and clarity.
- The quality enhancement plan (QEP) should be integrated into the Principles of Accreditation and be revised to allow institutions to focus on improvement that aligns with the institution's strategic plan and not be focused solely on improving student learning. For example, if an institution is interested in improving retention rates, then the institution should be allowed to develop a five-year QEP that would address retention rates.

A first draft of proposed changes will be posted publicly on the SACSCOC website in January. A short period of feedback and revisions will follow. The final report will be submitted to the SACSCOC Board of Trustees to be voted on for presentation to the membership in June. The final vote on the revised Principles of Accreditation will occur at the SACSCOC Annual Meeting in December 2017.

One Final Note of Appreciation

We would like to take this one last opportunity to thank Dr. Robert Smith for his vision and leadership during his time here. Dr. Smith's commitment to this institution helped us through one of the most difficult situations we have ever faced. His belief and faith in us and in UT Martin created the momentum we needed to succeed.



*Thank you,
Dr. Smith!*

For more information, please contact Stephanie Kolitsch, SACS Accreditation Coordinator, at styler@utm.edu, or Patty Flowers, Assessment Coordinator, at pflowers@utm.edu.

Photo 1: Official announcement of UTM's removal from Probation (Kolitsch). Photo 2: Dr. Keith Carver and Dr. Robert Smith at the SACSCOC Annual Meeting, with a countdown clock to Dr. Carver's first day as Chancellor of UTM.