

# UT MARTIN ASSESSMENT NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2016

### *SACSCOC Site Visit Next Week*

Our SACSCOC Visiting Team will be on campus October 4-6, 2016. The team consists of four members who are experts in institutional effectiveness and effective general education programs. Members include:

- Dr. Susan L. Bosworth, The College of William and Mary, who serves as chair of the visiting committee;
- Dr. Wayne D. Andrews, Morehead State University;
- Dr. James R. Byington, Coastal Carolina University; and
- Dr. Denise Y. Young, University of North Georgia.

Dr. John S. Hardt, Vice President of SACSCOC, will accompany the team throughout the visit.

Dr. Joe DiPietro, UT System President, will be on campus Wednesday, October 5, to meet with team members.

The Visiting Team has requested meetings with selected groups of faculty and staff. Thank you to those faculty and staff members who will be meeting with our visiting team and to those who are providing support to the ones in the meetings by covering areas, providing information, and assisting with preparations.

If you see any of our visitors on campus next week, please give them a warm welcome to our campus!



## ***Congratulations to The Tennessee Intensive English Program***

The Tennessee Intensive English Program received accreditation from the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA) for the initial period August 2016 through July 2017. CEA is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency for English language programs and institutions in the United States. Staff in International Programs have worked diligently to receive this initial accreditation, which is an important distinction when recruiting international students. Congratulations to everyone in TIEP and International Programs!

## ***From Data to Decisions***

Faculty in the **Department of Music** recognized a need in their department to keep everyone informed about assessment both on the institutional and the departmental level and to update faculty on departmental curricular revisions. The faculty have implemented a departmental curriculum and assessment newsletter called “Skyhawk Music’s Educational Needs Tracker” or “SMENT.” Recent issues have included a calendar of institutional and departmental deadlines, information to prepare Music faculty for the upcoming SACSCOC site visit, updates on their program accreditation through NASM, and decisions from the curriculum committee requiring action from the full department. If you would like more information about the SMENT newsletter, please contact Dr. Roberto Mancusi.

Faculty and staff in the **Hortense Parrish Writing Center** recently shared a document detailing a long history of using data to inform decisions. Detailed attendance

records dating back to 1986 have been used as a factor in determining staffing needs and revising work schedules to increase the number of hours available for tutoring. An increase in attendance triggered by a requirement in English 100-110 to visit the center at least once per week led to the decision to redesign the space in the lab and to increase the number of writing consultants on duty.

An analysis of student visit records showed a number of requests for assistance with the APA documentation style. Writing Center staff were trained to tutor students in APA style and the Writing Center began offering workshops on using APA style. Recent changes in MLA documentation style have led to new materials for use when tutoring students, additional MLA workshops, and a recorded PowerPoint lecture on MLA style that will soon be available to students at all UT Martin campuses and centers.

## ***We Want Your Input!***

The stories we have highlighted this month about TIEP, the Department of Music, and the Hortense Parrish Writing Center were provided by faculty and staff in these areas and were not collected as part of the routine assessment reporting process. We are excited that these colleagues are sharing their stories; this illustrates the extent of the transformation that UT Martin has undergone in the assessment culture on campus.

Do you have a story you want to share about how assessment has improved your area? Have you gotten an idea from your colleagues in another area that you have implemented in your own area? Please let us know!