Southern Association of Colleges & Schools (SACS) Reaffirmation

Presentation to Faculty Conference
January 30, 2009
What is SACS Reaffirmation and why is it important to Winthrop?

• Must be SACS approved to operate

• Indicates to the public we are accountable and committed to quality enhancement

• Allows us to look at Winthrop’s strengths and challenges and develop plans for improvement
What does SACS Reaffirmation have to do with us?

• Phase I: Readiness Audit
• Phase II: Compliance Report
• Phase III: Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)
• Phase IV: QEP Implementation and Five-Year Report
Phase I: Readiness Audit

• Gap Analysis: Opportunity to identify areas needing attention prior to submission of the Compliance Certification Report

• Analysis of Findings and Action Plan: Completed by April 2009
What is the QEP?

• Five-year, mission-driven plan focused on student learning

• Examples:
  - student writing
  - student engagement
  - information fluency
QEP Development Process

• Topic selection involves faculty/staff, students, alumni, community

• Plan specifies objectives, outcomes, institutional research, and best practices literature

• Implementation plan demonstrates institutional commitment (financial and physical resources)

• Assessment plan outlines comprehensive and coherent strategy
Institutional Effectiveness

Core Requirement 2.5

The institution engages in ongoing, integrated, and institution-wide research-based planning and evaluation processes that

(1) incorporate a systematic review of institutional mission, goals, and outcomes;

(2) result in continuing improvement in institutional quality; and

(3) demonstrate the institution is effectively accomplishing its mission.
Institutional Effectiveness

Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1
The institution identifies expected outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results in each of the following areas:

- 3.3.1.1 educational programs, to include student learning outcomes
- 3.3.1.2 administrative support services
- 3.3.1.3 educational support services
- 3.3.1.4 research within its educational mission, if appropriate
- 3.3.1.5 community/public service within its educational mission, if appropriate
Role of Accreditation, Accountability, and Academic Services

• Facilitate (not dictate)
• Provide data and analysis (data warehouse)
• Support assessment activities
• Identify resources
• Network across the institution
Timeline for SACS Reaffirmation

- **Spring 2009**  Conduct Readiness Audit
- **Fall 2009-Spring 2010**  Complete Compliance Report
  Select and Develop QEP
- **September 2010**  Submit Compliance Report
- **December 2010**  Submit QEP
- **Spring 2011**  SACS On-site Review Committee Visits Winthrop University
- **December 2011**  SACS Reaffirmation Action