



SACS Newsletter



OCTOBER 20, 2006

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

The Meharry Medical College Mission

Meharry Medical College exists to improve the health and health care of minority and underserved communities by offering excellent education and training programs in the health sciences; placing special emphasis on providing opportunities to people of color and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, regardless of race or ethnicity; delivering high quality health services; and conducting research that fosters the elimination of health disparities”

Table of Contents

- Message from President 1
- Message from Liaison 2
- Accreditation Process 2
- SACS Campus Meetings ... 3
- Campus Involvement 3
- Accreditation Countdown ... 4
- SACS Committee Chairs.... 4

Message from the Interim President

After having served as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Liaison Officer of Meharry Medical College for the last year-and-a-half or more, with the able assistance of my Executive Assistant Ms. Patricia Hammock, I am pleased to announce to the Meharry Family that the *Compliance Certification Report* was submitted to the SACS Commission on Colleges on September 6, 2006. The report was sent to our SACS Staff Representative, Off-Site Review Committee chair, and the other nine members of the Off-Site Review Committee. The due date was Friday, September 8, 2006.

A special “thank you” is in order for three individuals who worked so diligently with all of the committees over the last few months to finalize the *Compliance Certification Report* and to assure that the aforementioned task was accomplished on time: Dr. Juanita F. Buford, the primary writer for the document, who is now serving as Interim SACS Liaison; Mr. Dave W. Floyd, Manager of Information Technology Support Services, who was the key on-site technical person and preparer of the electronic version of the report; and Dr. Annie W. Neal, who coordinated the collection of the supporting documentation. I would also like to thank all committees and everyone who contributed to the compliance certification, which includes subcommittee chairs and co-chairs, committee members, and administrative support personnel in various offices across our campus.

The next phase of the reaffirmation process involves completing the preparation of the college’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and its implementation scheduled for October 2006... The QEP is a vital component of the accreditation process and is expected to reflect the college’s commitment and dedication to enhancing the quality of educational programs and outcomes. Based on the results of the QEP surveys distributed to the campus community last year, the College’s QEP will focus on reestablishing a centralized academic resource for students and faculty members. The new center, the Center for Educational Development and Support, will encompass services that were provided by the former Teaching and Learning Resource Center (TLRC) as well as offer new programs and initiatives for student academic support and faculty development. Efforts to prepare the physical location for the new center are underway. The QEP is due to be submitted to the SACS Commission on Colleges in January 2007.

As we prepare for the SACS on-site visit, March 6-8, 2007, there will be several opportunities for faculty, students, administrators, and key staff to become more knowledgeable about our Compliance Certification Report and the QEP. Mock site-visit sessions with the Interim President and Interim SACS Liaison will be scheduled before the site visit. In addition, all members of the campus community are being called on to support and become involved with the QEP.

Again, I say “THANKS” to all of you for your continued support and encouragement as we work together to move Meharry Medical College forward.

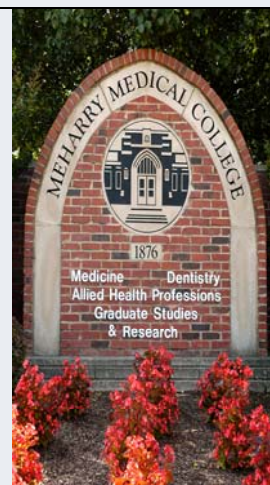
A. Cherrie Epps, Ph.D.
Interim President



A Message from the Interim SACS Accreditation Liaison Officer

I am happy to reiterate that we completed the first stage of the process for reaffirmation of accreditation when we submitted our Compliance Certification Report to SACS and members of the Off-Site Review Committee. The next steps in the reaffirmation include:

- The Off-Site Review Committee's review of our compliance report and determine whether or not they agree that we are in compliance with each of the *Principles of Accreditation*. The College will be notified of the Off-Site Review Committee's decisions following a November meeting. If needed, we will have an opportunity to respond to comments and questions through a Focused Report.
- If a Focused Report is required, it will be forwarded to SACS and the On-Site Review Committee in January 2007.
- The QEP will be submitted to SACS and the On-Site Review Committee in January 2007.
- The On-Site Review Committee will visit the campus March 6-8, 2007. During the visit, the committee members will conduct a focused evaluation of compliance issues, evaluate the acceptability of the QEP, and meet with members of the campus community. At the conclusion of the visit, the Committee will provide recommendations regarding the implementation of the QEP.
- The On-Site Review Committee will prepare a written report of its finding and make recommendations the SACS Commission on Colleges regarding the reaffirmation of Meharry's reaccreditation. The committee's report along with the institution's response to any recommendations will be forwarded to the Commission on Colleges for review and action.
- The Commission on Colleges will announce its decision on reaffirmation during its annual meeting in December 2007.



Working on the Compliance Certification Report was a very challenging yet rewarding experience for me. I especially appreciate the assistance and support of Dr. Annie Neal and Mr. Dave Floyd. But, we couldn't have completed the report without the help of numerous people across the campus. Your contributions are also greatly appreciated.

I'm looking forward to sharing more information about the accreditation projects and process in the coming months. Your continued support and involvement will result in a successful reaffirmation of accreditation in 2007.

If there is a need for additional information about the Compliance Certification Report, QEP, or the process for reaffirmation of accreditation, please contact me by email, jbuford@mmc.edu, or phone, 327-6354, or you may contact Dr. Epps at acepps@mmc.edu or 327-6904.



Juanita F. Buford, Ed.D.

SACS Newsletter Staff

A. Cherrie Epps,
Ph.D.,

Publisher

Annie W. Neal,
Ph.D.

Juanita F. Buford,
Ed.D.

Editors

Patricia Morris
Hammock

*Layout Design &
Production Assistant*

SACS Liaison Office
First Floor
Clay Simpson Building
Meharry Medical College
1005 Dr. D. B. Todd, Jr.
Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37208

Phone
615.327.6354

Fax
615.327.6100

E-mail
sacsliasion@mmc.edu

Campus Meetings with the Interim President and Interim SACS Liaison

It is important that the campus community be informed and supportive of the College's Compliance Certification Report, Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), and other aspects of the reaffirmation of accreditation. Toward that end, we invite you to participate in meetings for various stakeholders that will be scheduled during the first two weeks of each month leading up to the site visit. Following is a tentative list of meetings for each month. Dates, times, and locations for the meetings will be announced through campus email.

November 2006 – Faculty

Faculty Senate/Council
Department Chairs
Vice Chairs
Center Directors and
Division Heads

December 2006 – Key Staff

Senior Administrative Assistants
Executive Assistants

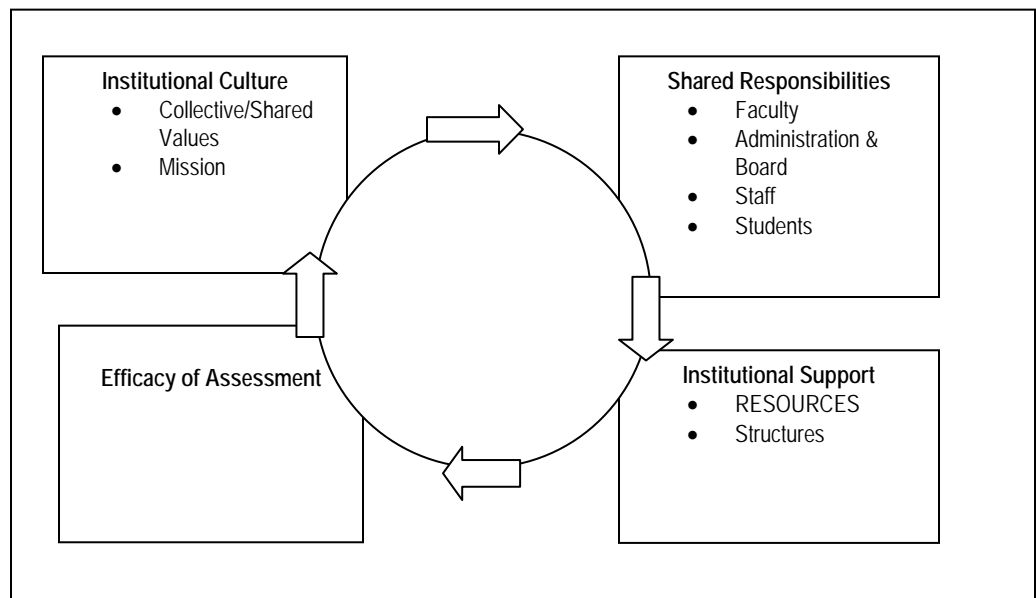
January 2007 – Students

Key officers of each student organization

February 2007 – Administrators (Support Services)

Admissions
Financial Aid
Purchasing
Finance
Legal
President's Office
All student services

Campus involvement in preparation for SACS





**Meharry Medical
College
SACS Executive
Leadership
Team**

- Interim President
- Accreditation Liaison
- Administration Representative
- Board of Trustees Representative
- Faculty Representative



Accreditation Count Down!

Informational Meetings—November 2006 to February 2007
Submission of QEP—January 2007
On-Site Review Committee Visit—March 6-8, 2007

SACS Committee Chairs & Co-Chairs

Steering Committee	Juanita Buford, Ed.D., Chair, SOM, Annie W. Neal, Ph.D., Vice Chair, SOM
Institutional Purpose	Gwinnett Ladson, M.D., Chair, SOM William Scales, D.D.S., Co-Chair, SOD
Institutional Effectiveness	Maria Fatima Lima, Ph.D., Chair, SOGS Jane Fort, Ph.D., Co-Chair, SOM
Educational Programs	James Tyus, D.D.S., Chair, SOD Pamela C. Williams, M.D. Co-Chair, SOM
Continuing Education, Outreach & Service Programs	Henry Moses, Ph.D., Chair, SOM Renee Bowen, J.D., R.N., Co-Chair, SOM
Faculty	Samuel Adunyah, Ph.D., Chair, SOM George Breaux, M.D., Co-Chair, SOM
Educational Support	Pamela Rucker, MA, MPA, Chair, SOM Charles Williams, D.D.S., Co-Chair, SOD
Student Development	Bernard Ray, Ph.D., Chair, Office of the Pres. Ethleen McGinnis-Hill, Ph.D., Co-Chair, SOM
Organization and Administration	Annie W. Neal, Ph.D., Chair, SOM Leilani Bouleware, J.D., Co-Chair, Office of the Pres.
Institutional Advancement Grants, and Contracts, Related Entities	Bernard Turner, Ed.D., Chair, Advancement & College Relations Peter Dolce, Ph.D., Co Chair, Research
Financial Resources	Dora Moore, CPA, M.B.A., Chair, Finance LaMel Bandy-Neal, M.B.A., Co-Chair, Finance
Physical Resources	Ferdinand Villalta, Ph.D., Chair, SOM Arthur Jackson, M.D., Co-Chair, SOM
Health Services	Renee Bowen, R.N., J.D., Chair, SOM Edwin Hines, D.D.S., Co-Chair, SOD

