BCCC Gearing Up For SACS

Southern Association Of Colleges and Schools

Every ten years in community college life, a dreaded word makes its way around campus: SACS. Just what is SACS, and what is it about SACS that we dread?

SACS is the acronym for Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the regional accreditation agency through which Beaufort County Community College is accredited. What everyone dreads about SACS is the very work-intensive activity in which we engage every ten years. That activity, the self-study, involves a close scrutiny of every aspect of the community college, from purpose to physical facilities. The study generally takes from 15 to 18 months; the findings are reported in the self-study document; and the study culminates in an on-campus visit by a team of SACS trained evaluators from schools throughout the southern region. Our last self-study, conducted between 1986-88, resulted in committee members becoming much more knowledgeable about various aspects of the college, in their finding and reporting changes that needed to be made, and in steps being made to correct the identified deficiencies. So, self-study is an opportunity to contribute to an activity which will make Beaufort County Community College a stronger institution.

Work on the self-study has already begun. Some time ago, Dr. Champion asked Betty Cochran, who headed the 1986-88 self-study, to head the upcoming self-study. Kay Walker-Hauser will chair the Steering Committee, and Dorie Richter will coordinate information for the study. Committee chairs for the criteria committees of institutional effectiveness, educational programs, continuing education, faculty, instructional support, library, organization and administration, financial resources, and physical resources have already been named, and an informational meeting for criteria committee chairs has already been held. The serious work of gathering and analyzing information will soon begin.

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