

Del Mar College's

Self-Study 2000:

1, January 31, 1999

A newsletter devoted to the successful reaffirmation of Del Mar's accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in December of 2000.

From the President:

Among Del Mar College's many assets, none is as important as our accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Accreditation gives our curriculum and instruction credibility among fellow institutions of higher education in the South and allows our students to transfer their courses easily to other colleges and universities. Our maintenance of accreditation is essential.

--Terry

Dicianna,

The self-study process is complex and rigorous; I urge all on campus to provide their best efforts, and I offer my gratitude in advance.

Working together, we will bring the self-study to a successful conclusion.

Countdown:

The Reaffirmation Visiting Committee from SACS will arrive on Del Mar's campus in:

403 days

Are you ready?

From the Self-Study Director:

Last summer, thirteen new Del Mar College committees began a three-year project. Their goal is a thorough self-study of College programs, policies, and services, using the guidelines of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Such a heavy task isn't taken up lightly. The College must meet this responsibility every ten years in order to retain its accreditation and receive Federal financial aid for students.

***--James A. Pierce,
English***

This semester should see us through most of the first stage of our work. The twelve principal committees will finish the first drafts of their reports, the Steering Committee will review them for additional research and re-writing, and open hearings on the committee reports will be

held this April. The principal committee members (there are more than a hundred of them!) have too much work to do. Nevertheless, they have reached a point a little bit ahead of where we were in our last self-study ten years ago.

Later this summer, the Steering Committee will publish a draft of the report for comments from the entire College community. Then, the administration will respond with a plan for correcting the weaknesses uncovered in the self-study.

The second stage begins next March when the members of a reaffirmation team arrive on campus. The team will include twelve to fifteen administrators and faculty, picked by SACS from colleges outside of Texas to verify the strengths and weaknesses we've described in our report and to write a report of their own.

(Please see "Pierce," on the back)

The Self-Study Steering Committee

The Steering Committee, made up of faculty, administration, and staff from both campuses, is charged with guiding the self-study and producing the *Self-Study Report* that will be submitted to SACS.

Lisa Welch, *Social Sciences*
James A. Pierce, *English, Chair*
Mary Pena, *Financial Aid*
Vickie Natale, *Administrative Services*
William Mareth, *Mathematics*
Mattie Marcum, *Dental Hygiene*
Dolores Huerta, *Business Administration*
Noe Guerra, *Learning Resources*
Homer Garza, *Welding*
Mike Gadell, *Kinesiology*
John M. Crisp, *English, Editor*

("Pierce," cont. from front)

Then, after the College responds to whatever changes this visiting team recommends, we wait for the final step, a vote at the SACS convention in December, 2000 to reaffirm Del Mar's accreditation.

As you see, the end of this process is still months away. Because of the work still ahead of us, we will need every day. Most heavily involved in the process are the members of the self-study committees. But the rest of the College must be a part of it, too. When the visiting team comes, team members might choose to talk to any of us, not just those on the committees. Any one of us might need to explain what his or her office's goals are and how the office evaluates its procedures.

In the next twelve months, the self-study committees will reach out with this newsletter and in other ways to let the College community know what we're doing and how everyone can help the College get ready for the visiting team's arrival. Sometimes, I just don't want to look at the work ahead of us. But the success of previous self-studies shows that the College has always done this job well. Small wonder, considering the quality of this institution and the character of those who work for her.

The Self-Study Principal Committee Chairs

The principal committees are charged with writing twelve chapters of the *Self-Study Report*, each on a different aspect of Del Mar College.

Institutional Purpose:

Mac Aipperspach, *Radio/TV*

Institutional Effectiveness:

Jo Ann Luckie, *Special Services*

Educational Program:

Mary Ann Williams, *Reading*

Special Educational Activities:

Pat Shufelt, *Mental Health*

Faculty:

Manuel Flores, *Journalism*

Educational Support Services:

Antonio David, *Mathematics*

Computer Resources and Services:

John Mastenbrook, *Psychology*

Student Development Services:

Linda Ard, *Early Childhood*

Organization and Administration:

Lenora Keas, *Banking and Finance*

Institutional Advancement:

Bob Ard, *Restaurant Management*

Financial Resources:

Don Craig, *Business Administration*

Physical Resources:

Pilar Flores, *Electronics & Comm. Tech.*

To review the self-study calendar, meeting minutes, and drafts of the principal committee reports, please see the self-study webpages. Link through Del Mar's homepage, www.delmar.edu; then look under Instructional Programs or Administrative Processes.

