

Q. & A.

May's issue of *Self-Study 2000* took a brief look at some of the issues that the SACS visiting team will be interested in with regard to institutional purpose. This month's newsletter looks at a different area: institutional effectiveness.

Everyone on the visiting team will be interested in institutional effectiveness since, in SACS's view, the concept pervades every element of the College's work. And the members of the visiting team whose particular assignment is to evaluate the College with regard to its success in institutional effectiveness will want to talk to many people on campus, from members of the Board of Regents and the President to the Chair of the Faculty Council and members of the self-study principal committee on institutional effectiveness. Here are some of the kinds of questions that they will ask:

Q. To what extent and in what ways does the institution demonstrate that it uses the results of its planning and evaluation efforts?

Q. What provision does the institution make for evaluating the outcomes of its general education program?

Q. How does the institution gather and use the results of feedback from its constituents regarding the quality and performance of instructional services?

Q. How does the institution use the results of its institutional research activities to change, strengthen, or enhance its educational programs and services?

Notice that three of these questions are focussed on the educational program or instructional services. But the visiting team will be asking these same questions, or similar ones, in connection with all of the programs and units at Del Mar, from Financial Aid to Physical Facilities.

(See Next Column)

(Continued from Previous Column)

At the heart of accreditation is the idea that every institution must plan and evaluate and then use the results of evaluation to make changes that improve effectiveness.

More on Accreditation

Regular readers of this newsletter know that considerable information on accreditation can be found at the SACS website: www.sacs.org

SACS, however, operates under the auspices of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, a non-profit organization that serves as a "national policy center and clearinghouse on accreditation" for institutions of higher education, regional accrediting agencies, specialized accrediting groups, and higher education associations.

CHEA's website provides a number of interesting documents on the history and current state of accreditation in the U.S.

www.chea.org

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 Resources.

If you are accessing the self-study webpages from off campus, call Jim Pierce, John M. Crisp, or any Steering Committee member for the *username* and *password*.