

Del Mar College's

Self-Study 2000:

10, October 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 Self-Study Director:

Dr. Frank Friedman, chair of the SACS reaffirmation team that will visit Del Mar next February, spent November 4-5 looking over both campuses and talking to people involved in the self-study process. Coincidentally, he and Dr. Dicianna are both psychology teachers and Pennsylvanians. Dr. Friedman brings many years of accreditation experience to his position, having served on twelve or more visiting teams. He also knows Texas well, having spent 1996-1998 as an administrator at Austin Community College. Although he had not read all sections of the *Self-Study Report*, he said that he was pleased with most of it and with the preparations made for his team's visit next spring.

Dr. Friedman talked at length about the kinds of questions that Del Mar employees might be asked by members of the SACS team. In particular, we should expect questions about how we plan and evaluate our work. In the last two years, every office on both campuses has developed one or more unit plans. All employees, said Dr. Friedman, should know what those plans focused on and what the results were.

In addition, every office manager should have read the current *Self-Study Report*, at least enough of it to know what recommendations and suggestions were made in his or her area. "After all," Friedman said, "the visiting team members look at the *Report* for leads to their investigation of the College." The *Addendum* is also required reading for managers, since it explains how the College plans to fix the problems discovered by the self-study. (Note: the printed *Report* will be distributed to departmental offices and the libraries in December, and the *Addendum* in January.)

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

Countdown:

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

105 days

Are you ready?

The Visiting Team's First Day On Campus Will Be February 14, 2000.

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Finally, employees might be asked their opinions about particular College problems or about morale. His comments suggest to me that the visiting team will be looking at two areas: how aware we are of our office's self-evaluation activities and how we feel about our work.



Progress Note: The Self-Study Report will be going to the printer on, or about, November 10. It should be printed by **December 10.**

Planning for the SACS Visit

During Dr. Frank Friedman's visit to Corpus Christi, he spent a good deal of time reviewing our logistics plan for the February visit of his committee, which could number as many as eighteen people. Items discussed included scheduling, communications, transportation between the airport, hotel, and college, sleeping accommodations, meals (on-campus and at the hotel), as well as the banquet, workrooms (on-campus and at the hotel), and equipment, both hardware and software for the workrooms. Arrangements for the visit are extensive and have been ongoing since June 1.

After weeks of negotiations with hotels in the downtown area, the Holiday Inn-Emerald Beach was selected as home base for the visiting team. Approximately two miles from the College, the hotel will be convenient for transporting the team to both the East and West Campuses. Newly refurbished in shades of green and mauve, the hotel ranks as one of the finest in the city. Team members' sleeping rooms are spacious and have a view of the bay and downtown Corpus Christi. The Sandpiper Restaurant, located on the first floor of the hotel, will provide off-campus meals for the team. Ed Persall, Sales Manager for the hotel, has given his assurance that his staff will take extra measures to make our guests comfortable.

While the committee is in town it will produce an extensive report about its visit and, therefore, it will require well-equipped workrooms, both at the hotel and on campus. At the Holiday Inn the committee will use the Marlin Room, an area that will provide sufficient space and privacy. Its work area will be configured with

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eight desktop computers, three laptop computers, two laserjet printers, two deskjet color printers, a FAX machine, and a telephone line. The laptop computers will provide portability and will be able to print to the two laserjet printers--wireless. Work areas will also be provided for the team. August Alfonso of Computing Services has worked with Southwestern Bell to provide additional phone lines for Internet connectivity. Software preferences of the team members will be loaded as needed.

While the visiting team is working on campus, it will use the Teaching and Learning Center on the fourth floor of the William F. White, Jr. Library. The T.L.C. is already well prepared to accommodate a large working committee, with a wired conference table large enough for about fifteen. In addition, it has eleven PC workstations and three Macs, all equipped with Internet connections and more than enough software to serve the committee's needs.

Finally, both workrooms will house an extensive paper library of the institutional documents that the committee will want to review.

Future editions of the *Self-Study 2000 Newsletter* will provide more information on the visit preparations.

--Linda Eubank, English
Visit Coordinator

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*.

For More Information
about SACS:
www.sacs.org