MEMORANDUM

TO: Texas Tech Community
FROM: Lawrence Schovanec, Provost and Senior Vice President
CC: M. Duane Nellis, President
DATE: September 9, 2014
SUBJECT: SACSCOC Reaffirmation: Compliance Certification Report

I am pleased to announce that the first phase of our Road to Reaffirmation – the 2015 SACSCOC reaffirmation of accreditation process -- was completed yesterday, with the delivery of the Compliance Certification Report (CCR) to the off-site reaffirmation committee and SACSCOC staff. More than two years in preparation, this comprehensive self-study affords our university a critically important opportunity to carefully review what we do and how we do it; our goals and values and how we plan and act to achieve them; how we measure our progress in attaining our goals; and above all, how we use what we have learned to better serve the needs of our students and other constituencies.

Many people deserve recognition for their role in the successful completion of this report, and it is impossible to name them all here. I would like to recognize the staff in the Office of Planning and Assessment, who have undertaken the management of this process, and whose members worked tirelessly to finalize the details of completion and production; the leaders of the ten reaffirmation teams who led the various cohorts of faculty and staff contributing to the report; the Office of Institutional Research, which supported innumerable requests for various kinds of data and documentation; and the more than 80 individual authors, whose meticulous attention to detail and patient persistence through the cycle of revisions resulted in a solid product of which we can all be proud. The drafting process, which spanned more than a year, was also aided by the input of two expert consultants.

I want to share with you some information about what comes next on our university’s Road to Reaffirmation. The off-site reaffirmation committee will provide the initial peer review of our compliance with the SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation. That committee will finalize a report by early November, and after SACSCOC sends us the committee’s report, we will need to create a response, called a Focused Report, which will address any questions or concerns of the off-site committee. The Focused Report, along with our proposed 2015-2020 Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) must be completed prior to the visit of the on-site reaffirmation committee, which will take place February 24-26, 2015. Following the on-site peer review, that committee’s report will outline any additional findings, and we have an additional five months to prepare a further clarifying response, if necessary. After submission of that final response, all our materials will be studied by the SACSCOC Committees on Compliance and Reports, which will make a recommendation to the SACSCOC Executive Board. The Board’s decision regarding the reaffirmation of TTU’s accreditation status will be announced during the December 2015 annual meeting in Houston.
For now, the next big target is the completion of our QEP, *Bear Our Banners Far and Wide: Communicating in a Global Society*, which will be finalized during the fall semester. This faculty-driven initiative will focus on improving student learning through increased and globally contextualized communication skills. You should anticipate hearing a lot more about the QEP during the next few months.

To all who have contributed to the CCR, and who are working hard to complete the QEP, thank you!