Everything You’ve Always Wanted to Know About Middle States...But Were Afraid to Ask

The self-study process is a complicated one, and while this newsletter can’t cover everything, we plan to provide the college community with timely updates as we progress through the multi-year reaccreditation experience.

By looking at how well we meet the 14 standards of excellence established by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), we have the opportunity to engage in a rigorous self-examination. Working groups, made up of representatives spanning the entire college community (faculty, staff, and administrators from over 30 departments, as well as students and board of trustees members) were formed in the spring of 2005. Members of the working groups spent spring, summer and early fall developing charge questions related to the standards in each group’s purview. Each group’s current task is to answer these questions and write a report. These reports will become part of the Self-Study Report submitted to the MSCHE in January, 2007. A visit in spring 2007 from the MSCHE accreditation team will follow. Unlike our previous experience in 1997, in which our three campuses were accredited individually but simultaneously, the spring 2007 visit will mark the first time SCCC will undergo a single, college-wide accreditation.

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*Life is just a mirror, and what you see out there, you must first see inside of you.*

-- Wally “Famous” Amos, *cookie mogul*

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http://www3.sunysuffolk.edu/MiddleStates/
Timetable

The Self-Study project was introduced to the college community during the spring 2005 semester. Work commenced with the formation of the coordinating council, the steering committee, and working groups. The groups continue their work, following the timetable below:

- **November 2005**: Survey of various college constituencies administered. Working groups update steering committee.
- **December 2005**: Campus forums.
- **January 2006**: Working groups update steering committee.
- **February 2006**: Working groups review results of survey data.
- **March 2006**: Working groups complete draft of answers to charge questions.
- **April 2006**: Campus forums; working groups complete first draft of reports.
- **May 2006**: Working groups submit second draft of reports to Coordinating Council.
- **June-August 2006**: First draft of Self-Study written.
- **September 2006**: First draft of Self-Study distributed to college community.
- **October 2006**: Campus forums.
- **November-December 2007**: Final Self-Study written.
- **November 2006**: Middle States Team chair’s preliminary visit.
- **November/December 2006**: Final Self-Study report is circulated at the college. Report prepared for printing.
- **January 2007**: Self-Study report printed and mailed to Middle States CHE.
- **April 2007**: Four-day visit from Middle States Team.
- **June 2007**: Middle States action.

New Feature Enhances Middle States Web Site

A threaded-discussion feature recently implemented on SCCC’s Middle States Web site will facilitate communication among working group committee members. Kate Dowling, management analyst, demonstrated this new tool at a recent steering committee meeting, explaining that it will enable groups to discuss items such as minutes, agendas, documents, or other issues. She distributed a copy of the Middle States Committee Threaded Discussions, which outlined the procedures to use this additional tool. She then walked committee members through the procedures. Special thanks to Kate Dowling and the computer staff Web-design team — George Markov, Jason Lorello, Eli Reiter, along with acting director of the computer center, Laura Levine.

And the Survey Says...

The Office of Institutional Research plays a major role in the Self-Study process. A representative from IR has been assigned to each working group, helping them find pertinent data and assisting them as they develop survey questions. Above, Anthony Napoli, associate dean of institutional research, addresses steering committee members at a recent meeting. Surveys of various college constituencies will be conducted by the end of this semester. We’d like to acknowledge the efforts Dr. Napoli and IR staff members James Lagonegro, Lanette Raymond, Catherine Wynne and Kathleen Massimo. Thanks also to IR senior clerk typist Dale Catalano, for providing vital technical and data processing services.
Meet the Steering Committee

Representing a cross-section of the college, steering committee members have been meeting monthly since April.

Asherine Alfond (Central)
Belinda Alvarez-Groneman (Central)
John Ammerman (Grant)
Pina Arcomano Britton (Central)
Daniel Awodiyi (Grant)
Charles Bartolotta (Grant)
Sarah Bartolotta (Ammerman)
Penny Bealle (Eastern)
Robert Beodeker (Eastern)
John Bullard (Central)
Darryl Butkos (Ammerman)
Philip Christensen (Eastern)
Amy Czura (Eastern)
Susan DeMasi (Ammerman)
Kate Dowling (Central)
Robert Drolof (Ammerman)
Diane Fabian (Grant)
James Frost (Eastern)
Ana Gaillat (Central)
Kathleen Galligan (Eastern)
Tina Good (Ammerman)
Michele Green (Eastern)
Arlene Jackson (Central)
Priscilla Jackson (Central)
Allen Jacobs (Central)
Alexander Kasukov (Grant)
Lydia Kloiber (Grant)
Dorothy Laffin (Ammerman)
Ana Menendez-Collera (Ammerman)
Anthony Napoli (Central)
Nicholas Palumbo (Eastern)
Naomi Phelps (Ammerman)
Barbara Ripel (Eastern)
Kate Rowe (Central)
Claire Rubman (Grant)
Laurey Russo (Eastern)
Cecelia Spellman (Ammerman)
Ernst Star (Ammerman)
Filiz Turhan-Swenson (Ammerman)

Spotlight On:
Sarah Bartolotta & Kathleen Galligan

Students Sarah Bartolotta (below right) and Kathleen Galligan bring a special perspective to the SCCC Middle States Steering Committee.

Sarah is a second-year honors program student who attends the Ammerman Campus and lives with her family in Stony Brook. She'll graduate in May 2006 and hopes to attend New York University. Kathleen, an Eastern Campus accounting major, graduates in December and will attend Dowling College in the spring. She lives with her family in Wading River.

These two students are among eight who are now members of middle states committees.

Both Sarah and Kathleen agree that one of the advantages of their Middle States experience is getting to know faculty and staff -- fellow steering committee members -- on a professional basis, and understanding more about what makes the college tick. Says Sarah, “When I walk around campus, I'll sometimes wave to one of the teachers, and my friends always ask how I know them.” Sarah is a member of working group 5, focusing on standard 10 (faculty issues). Kathleen is co-chair of working group 6, which is studying standard 9, student support services.

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Our Middle States Liaison

Holding our collective hands through the reaccreditation process is our Middle States liaison, Dr. Michael Kiphart. He's already visited SCCC twice -- once to meet with the Coordinating Council and the Steering Committee, and the second time to address the faculty on opening day and conduct an opening day workshop. He will continue to assist the college and provide guidance if needed prior to and during the Middle States team visit.

Before joining the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), Dr. Kiphart was the assistant secretary for Planning and Academic Affairs, Maryland Higher Education Commission. There, he coordinated the development and implementation of state policies related to colleges, universities, and other post-secondary educational institutions in Maryland. He reviewed the academic programs of all institutions in the state and approved new institutions and out-of-state institutions.

Over the past 20 years, his professional experience in higher education has also involved teaching, curriculum development, administration, planning, policy development, student issues, and academic advising. He served as vice president for the Maryland Independent College and University Association and was the associate provost for academic services and a psychology faculty member at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

He earned his B.S. in psychology, M.S. in psychology, and Ph.D. in psychology (experimental cognitive) from Colorado State University. He also earned an associate of arts degree in psychology from Arapahoe Community College in Littleton, Colorado.

It Takes a Village

We're proud of the collective effort being made by people from all campuses and all areas of the college community. At last count, here is the breakdown of our involvement:

| Full-Time Faculty: | 106 | Trustee | 1 |
| Adjunct Faculty:   | 13  | Students: | 8 |
| Departments:       | 33  | Administrators: | 45 |
|                    |     | Support Staff: | 15 |

Self-Study
Coordinating Council

Dr. Candice Foley
John Przyputniewicz
Self-Study Co-Chairs

Judith Koodin
Project Administrator

Dr. James Canniff
Vice President
Academic & Student Affairs

Joanne E. Braxton
Associate Vice President
Campus Affairs

Dr. Allen Jacobs, Associate Dean
Curriculum & Assessment

Dr. Susan Fanning
Communications Officer

Dr. Shirley Robinson Pippins
SCCC President

Susan DeMasi, Newsletter Editor
Muriel Lanier, Middle States Project Secretary
451-4682

In order to keep the college community informed about SCCC's reaccreditation, this newsletter will be published every semester during the Self-Study process. Please visit our Web site for additional and more in-depth information. We welcome your input and comments.

http://www3.sunysuffolk.edu/MiddleStates/