Good afternoon. I am thrilled to say that at 12:18:45 pm, the last of eleven compliance certification packages was entered into the FedEx system. The packages will be delivered to their destinations on Monday, September 12th. We have, therefore, met the deadline for the submission of UNC Asheville’s SACS Commission on Colleges compliance certification materials.

As I mentioned in the Reaffirmation Update of August 10th, hundreds of faculty, staff, students, and community members have done much, directly and indirectly, to get us to this point. Although there are many people I would like to acknowledge by name, at this time I would like to draw special attention to the SACS Document Group and the SACS Working Group, who did so much on a continuing basis to get us to this point.

Many thanks to SACS Document Group members: Eileen Crowe (SACS Editor), Jessica Dunsmore (Director of Institutional Effectiveness), Annis Lytle (SACS Reaffirmation Assistant), and Louis Toms (SACS Data Manager). Eileen provided consistent, repeated, and precise editing of multiple drafts. Jessica provided an insider's knowledge of SACS that was indispensable. Annis kept everyone informed and coordinated the activities of all concerned. Louis was the person who received, distributed, and assembled multiple drafts of hundreds of compliance documents and singlehandedly assembled the final compliance certification materials.

Many thanks, as well, to SACS Working Group members: Jessica Dunsmore, Jane Fernandes (Provost and VCAA), Lisa Friedenberg (Director of Academic Assessment), Amy Lanou (QEP Assistant Chair), Mary Lynn Manns (QEP Chair), Susan Reiser (QEP Researcher), and Nancy Yeager (Director of Student Affairs Planning and Assessment). Members of the SWG have worked together consistently for eighteen months (at least), each contributing in ways suggested by their titles--and in many other ways--to the larger interest of our University.

Let me say that this is simply the first, albeit giant, step of our journey. In later November, the University will receive a response to our submission and then another compliance submission will be necessary, which will leave campus around February 1, 2012, at which time our Quality Enhancement Plan will be included, too. Then, in the last week of March, 2012, the SACSCOC on-site time will be visiting us to take a first-hand look at our University, the QEP, and any remaining compliance issues. Still, let us savor this milestone reached today.

I hope that you will find your own way to thank the exceptional people above who have done so much toward our reaffirmation of accreditation. Your continued interest and support of our reaffirmation efforts is appreciated!

Best wishes,

Bruce Larson for the SACS Executive Committee