Good morning! Today from 9:00 to 9:15 we had our Exit Conference with our visiting team from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Dr. Gloria Raines, the chair of the team, presided and reports from three team members were shared. The reports were very positive, leaving us in an excellent position to have our accreditation reaffirmed.

Dr. Charles Love presented the compliance report, which included only one recommendation, that in relation to standard 3.5.4. (A recommendation is a statement that we are not in compliance with a standard.) The university now has five months from today, that is, by August 29th, to respond to the finding. The finding is narrowly focused.

Ms. Kate Williams reported on the Quality Enhancement Plan. The team was very impressed by the Inquiry ARC and made a small number of suggestions to provide more opportunities for students and educators to participate in it.

Dr. Robin Hoffman, our SACSCOC Vice President, shared information about next steps. She spoke of the five-month response period and how that response will be handled, and the final steps in the reaffirmation process. In December, 2012, at the Annual Meeting of SACSCOC, our reaffirmation of accreditation will be acted upon by the Commission on Colleges.

Dr. Raines was highly complimentary of the team's stay. The food was terrific, the physical beauty of our campus striking, the commitment of our faculty and staff impressive, and our students simply stood out. They left campus with very positive experiences of our university.

Annis Lytle, Adam Reagan, and Nancy Yeager did so very much during the last few days to ensure that our on-site visit was a success. Annis contributed in all phases of the visit, indeed no part was untouched by her thoughtfulness and care. Adam camped out at the Renaissance Hotel for two days in order to ensure that all of the IT needs of the team were fully and quickly addressed; Karl Knierim of ITS did his share of camping out next to HU 235, which was the team's campus work room. Nancy Yeager worked with Chartwells to ensure that the visiting team was well fed, watched over the rooms in Highsmith University Union, made sure that our visiting team and those on campus got where they need to go, and helped recruit students to meetings. Ben Judge, of the Student Government Association and a member of the SACS Executive Committee, helped recruit students, too. Many more faculty, staff, and students contributed in a variety of ways at small-group meetings, lunches, and behind the scenes.

Truly, I wish I had an app that would enable me to turn your monitor into a mirror. Then you would see someone who contributed to our reaffirmation efforts, whether directly or indirectly. Your contributions are acknowledged and greatly appreciated!

Best wishes,

Bruce Larson for the SACS Executive Committee