Good afternoon. I am thrilled to say that today at 12:56 pm, Annis Lytle and Eileen Crowe transmitted to the FedEx system the last of ten packages destined for the On-Site Committee for UNC Asheville's Reaffirmation of Accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The packages will arrive at their destinations tomorrow morning (February 9th), well in advance of the deadline.

Our submission included, among other items, three new documents: a Focused Report, which has responses to the standards found to be noncompliant by the Off-Site Committee; an Addendum Report, which has responses to new and revised standards resulting from the December, 2011 annual meeting of SACSCOC; and our Quality Enhancement Plan (Inquiry ARC). The QEP Leadership Team put together an impressive document, one that Mary Lynn Manns will be sharing with the campus community in the next few days. I hope that you will take a close look at the Inquiry ARC and see how you might contribute to its work of enhancing the critical thinking capabilities of our students.

Once more, I would like to acknowledge the many hundreds of faculty, staff, students, and community members who have done so much to get us to this point, and a few more specifically. The members of the SACS Working Group (SWG) helped identify the work to be done for this submission and who would help do it. The members of the SWG are: 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). The members of the SACS Document Group (SDG) edited, coordinated, and assembled that work and got the documents out the door. The members of the SDG are: Eileen Crowe (SACS Editor), Jessica Dunsmore (Director of Institutional Effectiveness), Annis Lytle (SACS Reaffirmation Assistant), and Louis Toms (SACS Data Manager). Susan Allman and Jeff Konz made important contributions to this latest submission.

So, we have taken another giant step along the road to reaffirmation. The next step will take place when our On-Site Committee visits UNC Asheville from March 27 (Tuesday) through March 29 (Thursday), not quite seven weeks from today. Their visit, which will encompass some compliance-related work but mostly QEP-related work, provides us with an opportunity to host ten of our colleagues from colleges and universities throughout the SACS region. I look forward to their visit.

Your continued interest and support of UNC Asheville's reaffirmation of accreditation is essential and greatly appreciated!

Best wishes,

Bruce Larson for the SACS Executive Committee