

SACS Facts, January 2009

Welcome back! UTC is beginning the SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) reaccreditation process, and your help is needed.

SACS is described on its website as “The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states. The Commission’s mission is the enhancement of educational quality throughout the region and it strives to improve the effectiveness of institutions by ensuring that institutions meet standards established by the higher education community that address the needs of society and students.”

This process is necessary for the survival of the University. It also engages UTC in the discovery and implementation of best practices, so that each student will receive the best possible education.

“The role of faculty and staff is important for the institution’s success. When a member of a SACS task force requests data or information, make it a priority. Please provide the best documentation possible and strive to meet deadlines. Please say “yes” if you are asked to serve on a committee,” said Dr. Karen Adsit, Chair of the Steering Committee.

SACS newsletters will alert the University community to new developments in the reaccreditation process. These newsletters will be posted online along with frequently asked questions, the SACS timeline, task forces, SACS resources and UTC institutional data at www.utc.edu/sacs.

Last year, the UTC community adopted a new strategic plan with a major emphasis on partnerships. One partnership category identified as significant was that with our accrediting agencies, and arguably, no accreditation partner is more important than the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

“As a commissioner with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, I am acutely aware of the importance of retaining SACS accreditation, and I am even more aware of the commitment from the entire campus that is required for a successful reaccreditation effort. I am thankful for the willingness of our SACS team leadership to assume this monumental task, and I encourage every one of us to step up and do our parts,” said Chancellor Roger Brown.