October 13, 2009

Colleagues:

At the September 18, 2009 meeting of the North Carolina A&T State University Board of Trustees, we were pleased to report that the SACS Compliance Certification report had been submitted thanks to the good efforts of the A&T University community. Many hands touched the report. The SACS Steering Committee has met regularly since spring 2007 and provided oversight of the project. The chairs of the twelve SACS subcommittees wrote various narrative parts of the report and collected the hundreds of documents included in it. In order to ensure the quality of the narratives, the SACS Document Review Committee and SACS Review Panel provided feedback to the subcommittees.

While the compliance certification is the primary document SACS requires, there is plenty of work yet to be done as we move toward the SACS On-Site Review Committee’s visit April 6-8, 2010. The SACS Policies Task Group is charged with collecting policies, procedures, and regulations so that we can make them readily available in one location on the University’s website (www.ncat.edu/sacs). Each academic unit and administrative division should work with the SACS Policies Task Group chair, Dr. Patricia Price Lea, to develop written policies for those widely understood practices and procedures that we follow, but have not committed to paper.

On October 7, Dr. Marcy Stoll, SACS vice president, and the liaison for North Carolina A&T, visited campus to meet with the various SACS committees, including the SACS Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Committee and QEP Marketing Committee. Dr. Stoll helped us prepare for the April on-site visit. As you are aware from the messages on the plasma screens around campus and the banners hanging outside the Williams Cafeteria and Memorial Student Union, the QEP topic focuses on critical thinking and continuing the legacy of teaching students how to think critically, intellectually, and thoughtfully. Once SACS approves the QEP, we expect to implement it in fall 2010. The QEP should enrich the student learning environment and stimulate classroom instruction as we prepare students for the world beyond the campus and for their future careers.
SACS not only requires that the University community fully participate in the selection of the QEP topic; it also expects significant participation in the development of the plan itself. I encourage you to participate in the remaining QEP Input Sessions on November 17 (11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Stallings Ballroom B), or to invite Dr. Vincent Childress to visit with your department or division to gather input, so that we have documentation of University-wide engagement.

Thank you, colleagues, for a job well done in launching the SACS 2010 reaffirmation year.

Best Regards,

Harold L. Martin, Sr.
Chancellor