

2028 SACSCOC Reaffirmation Leadership Team Meeting
March 5, 2026, 1:00 – 2:00pm
Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Raúl Hinojosa Jr., Mary Jo Venetis, Sarah Moore, Chandramallika Basak, Courtney Brecheen, Sarah Moore, Vicky Morris-Dueer, William Nichols, Robin Paige, Amanda Smith, Stephen Spiro, Vy Trang, Angela Franklin

Absent: Lev Gelb, Juan González, Rafael Martín, Clark Meyer, Inga Musselman

SACSCOC Substantive Change Policy Revisions: Dr. Mary Jo Venetis provided an overview of the recent SACSCOC substantive change policy revisions, noting expedited responses for requests, and Dr. Raúl Hinojosa Jr. emphasized the importance of sharing these updates with relevant academic program managers, with Dr. Venetis and the Curricular Services team lead, Eric Van Leeuwen, as primary contacts for questions.

Policy Revision Overview: Dr. Venetis explained that SACSCOC revised its substantive change policy in December 2025, with formal revisions released in January 2026, and she shared a summary of the changes with the group. Dr. Venetis highlighted that the revisions are expected to result in expedited responses to substantive change requests, improving the process for the institution.

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Update: Dr. Sarah Moore updated the group on the QEP process, describing recent outreach efforts, the formation of a diverse committee, and the timeline for identifying a QEP topic, with Dr. Hinojosa emphasizing the goal to select a topic by summer 2026 and the importance of ongoing communication with the group. Dr. Moore described a 'roadshow' of committee meetings to build enthusiasm for the SACSCOC reaffirmation and QEP project, noting that committee invitation letters were sent out and the first meeting is scheduled for the following week. The committee includes 18 members from across campus, including undergraduate and graduate students, and they will review data from the Presidential Roadmap 2030 survey.

SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation Revisions and Feedback Process: Dr. Hinojosa informed the group that the SACSCOC Principles Review Committee is working on drafting revisions and expects that a first draft will be released for feedback before the leadership group's next meeting. Dr. Hinojosa stated that accreditation liaisons may be asked to provide feedback either through UT System or directly to SACSCOC and intends to reach out to the leadership group to review and collectively share input once the draft is available. He noted that the process should be public, with drafts posted online or distributed broadly, and that the leadership group will be contacted via email or Teams to participate in the review and feedback process.

Statewide and Systemwide Accreditation Liaison Updates: Dr. Hinojosa shared updates from meetings with UT System and Texas accreditation liaisons, including upcoming opportunities to hear from SACSCOC representatives and the value of statewide collaboration on accreditation

topics. He described regular meetings with UT System accreditation liaisons and participation in calls with Texas accreditation liaisons from various University systems, highlighting the collaborative nature and experience within these groups.

Proposed Working Groups for SACSCOC Reaffirmation: Dr. Hinojosa and Dr. Venetis presented a draft structure for six working groups to address the SACSCOC reaffirmation, detailed the composition and focus of each group, solicited feedback from participants, and outlined next steps for finalizing and launching the groups. Each of the working groups are aligned with specific Principles of Accreditation, and that the number of groups is reduced due to fewer Principles needing to be addressed in this cycle.

Group Composition and Representation: The leadership team discussed the proposed membership for each group, emphasizing the inclusion of relevant units and individuals, and Dr. Hinojosa invited feedback to ensure comprehensive representation, including suggestions for school-level assessment representatives and professional development contributors.

Specific Working Groups and Focus Areas: The working groups cover Mission, Governance and Administration; Faculty and Academic Administration; Curriculum Design and Educational Policies and Practices; Student Success Outcomes, Assessment and Support; University Financial, IT and Physical Resources; and Institutional Planning and Success Metrics, with each group assigned relevant stakeholders and responsibilities.

Feedback and Iterative Adjustments: Dr. Stephen Spiro, Dr. Amanda Smith, and Dr. Robin Paige provided input on group composition, including the need to add representatives from the Center for Teaching and Learning and to clarify roles for faculty professional development. Dr. Hinojosa followed up with the participants that the faculty development Principle will not be part of the Differentiated Review Process.

Next Steps and Timeline: Dr. Hinojosa and Dr. Courtney Brecheen will finalize the working groups the following week, invite members, and aim to hold organizing meetings in April, requesting any final feedback by early next week and noting that the group list will be shared once finalized.

Follow-up tasks

Working Group Membership Feedback: Review the proposed working group membership list and send any additional feedback or suggestions for missing units or individuals to Dr. Hinojosa and Dr. Brecheen by early next week. (All participants)

Addition of Sponsored Projects Representative: Add a representative from Sponsored Projects to the University Financial, IT and Physical Resources Working Group. (Dr. Hinojosa)

Clarification of Faculty Advisory Council Representation: Clarify and update the representation for the Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) in the Mission, Governance and Administration working group, given that the FAC will not have a chair. (Dr. Hinojosa)

Finalization and Distribution of Working Group Assignments: Finalize the working group assignments based on feedback and share the updated list with the group, holding off on wider circulation until individuals are notified of their assignments. (Dr. Hinojosa and Dr. Brecheen)