MEMORANDUM

To: University Community

From: Douglas Wartzok, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President

Date: November 30, 2009

Re: SACS Compliance Certification Report

The University received a very positive report from the off-site review of FIU’s Compliance Certification Report (CCR) prepared for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). This review cited “compliance” of 84 of the 89 Principles of Accreditation. On a conference call with the SACS Commission on Colleges, the President was informed that FIU ranked in the top three institutions of 40 reviewed.

The non-compliance issues do not present any significant problems. The first was that at the time of submission in September 2009 we did not have an audited Financial Report for 2008-09. This will be corrected as soon as the state completes the audit of our 2008-09 financial report. Two other non-compliance issues related to our Board of Trustees. Although we have Conflict of Interest and Removal of Trustee policies in place, we needed to add one sentence to each of these to state that we have never had an unresolved Conflict of Interest issue and we have never removed a Trustee for cause. The fourth issue is to clarify that our Direct Service Organizations (FIU Foundation, Research Foundation, Athletic Finance Corporation, and Health Care Network) do not represent liabilities for the University. The fifth issue is to provide an example of how faculty governance of the curriculum operates by providing department, college and Faculty Senate minutes of action on a new degree proposal. The off-site review team indicated that all proper policies, procedures, and structures were in place, but that we needed to provide an example of how they operated through the approval of a new degree program.

It is significant that we were identified as being in compliance in terms of faculty credentialing and assessment of Student Learning Outcomes and Program Outcomes. These are principles on which well over half of all universities are found to be non-compliant. Our success on these principles is a tribute to the faculty in all degree programs who have placed a high priority on assessment of student learning.

The Preliminary Report of the Off-Site Review of FIU's Compliance Certification Report is available to the University Community. When logged into the Active Directory (ad) you will have automatic access to it. FIU's Compliance Certification Report is available at http://ccr.fiu.edu. Questions regarding the reports may be directed to Susan Himburg, SACS Director of Reaffirmation at himburgs@fiu.edu or 305-348-3233.

While we are very proud of this accomplishment, we will not rest on our laurels but will continue vigorous preparations for the off shore site visits that will occur in January and the on campus site visit that will occur in March. An important focus of the March site visit will be our Quality Enhancement Plan—Global Learning for Global Citizenship.

The entire project has been under the leadership of Susan Himburg who also lead the successful reaffirmation of accreditation in 2000. A number of individuals helped Susan well beyond their normal assignments on preparing the Certification of Compliance Report. President Rosenberg and I would
like to recognize the entire community's contributions to this process and specifically thank the following individuals:

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- Milly Bello
- Victoria Castellanos
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