



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Office of the Assistant Vice Chancellor for International Studies and Programs
UH System

Office of the Assistant Vice President for International Studies and Programs
University of Houston

September 4, 2009

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

The University of Houston has enclosed five (5) copies of the "First Monitoring Report" as requested in your January 9, 2009 letter to President Renu Khator.

The report responds to CS 3.5.1 (College-Level Competencies), Recommendation 2 as noted in your letter, specifically, ***The assessment of core competencies is well planned by the institution, however many of the activities have not been implemented. The institution should document the assessment of college-level competencies as described in the document "Core Competency Assessment Plan and Progress Report", submitted to SACS on September 10, 2008.***

The University has followed the plan outlined in the Report of September 10, 2008 in the assessment of critical thinking, communication, information literacy and quantitative literacy skills. The results and continuing processes are described in the attached monitoring report.


Undergraduate education has been significantly affected by the outcomes of the assessment products and processes. We feel comfortable in saying, as does the faculty, that UH has undergone a thorough review of the academic areas noted above and is using now, and will do so in the future, these outcomes to improve undergraduate education at the University of Houston. In addition, the QEP has caused a revitalization, and in many cases new initiatives, by integrating undergraduate research into courses and programs throughout the curricula. The

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
First Monitoring Report
Page 2

critical thinking, communication, information literacy and in many cases quantitative literacy skills are being, or will be, practiced and honed in these courses, laboratories and practicums.

Please let me know if further information is needed and we look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting in December.

Cordially,


Gerald W. Strickland, Ph.D.
SACS-COC Liaison Officer
Assistant VC/Assistant VP, International Studies and Programs

JWS/ab

Enclosures

Cc: President Renu Khator
Provost John Antel
Executive Director Libby Barlow
SACS-COC Vice President Jack Allen