New Directions for Transforming RACIE to RACEA

(As of February 2009)

New Name: **RACEA (**Regents Administrative Committee on Effectiveness & Accreditation)

Vision Statement: RACEA is expected to be a catalyst for strengthening the University System of Georgia and its member institutions as leaders in key areas of institutional effectiveness and regional accreditation, including quality enhancement, student learning outcomes, comprehensive program review, assessment practices, continuous improvement, accreditation compliance, and public accountability.

Purpose Statement: RACEA provides a system-wide network of professional specialists and resources for promoting success in the interrelated areas of institutional effectiveness and regional accreditation through shared information, mutual support, expert assistance, and emulation of best practices and for recommending improvements in related USG policies and procedures that reinforce success in these areas.

Membership: USG presidents will annually appoint one institutional voting representative to RACEA from the ranks of institutional effectiveness directors, SACS accreditation liaisons, assessment coordinators and Quality Enhancement Plan directors. In keeping with RACEA's vision and purpose, other institutional representatives may also be appointed as non-voting affiliate members of RACEA who will attend annual meetings, and participate in the Committee's task forces, professional development programs, and USG initiatives.

Task Forces: RACEA's annual plan of work will revolve largely around the goals, initiatives, and accomplishments of its five standing task forces on:

1. **Evaluation of Expected Outcomes for Programs & Services**

   Focused on: conducting comprehensive program review of degree programs and general education; articulating, assessing, and improving expected outcomes for the institution's programs and support services, including its research and public service missions (CS 3.3.1.1-5); best practices; successful models, regional and national developments, etc.

2. **Student Learning Outcomes Assessment**

   Focused on: interpreting the different meanings of student learning outcomes (CS 3.3.1.1), the college-level competencies of graduates (CS 3.5.1), course-level learning outcomes, and "expected outcomes" for programs and services; articulating assessing, and improving student learning outcomes and college-level competencies; comparative assessment methods; best practices; successful models; regional and national developments, etc.

3. Institution-wide Strategic Planning, Quality Enhancement and Continuous Improvement

Focused on: interpreting the distinctive differences between institutional effectiveness at the level of the institution as a whole (CR 2.5) and institutional effectiveness at the unit level of programs and services (CS 3.3.1.1-5); identifying expectations for an acceptable and successful Quality Enhancement Plan (CR 2.12); demonstrating the use of assessment results for institutional improvement; comparative strategies and systems for advancing institutional quality assurance; continuous improvement and public accountability; best practices; successful models and sample QEPs; regional and national developments, etc.; planning and evaluation strategies and systems; assessing attainment of institutional missions and strategic goals; comparative assessment methods.

4. Current Issues in Accreditation

Focused on: keeping up with the ever-changing requirements for SACS-COC compliance reports, focused and follow-up reports, substantive change reporting, fifth-year reports, off-site and on-site evaluation processes; demonstrating and documenting compliance with accreditation requirements; Commission policies and guidelines affecting distance learning, transfer of credit, joint curricular ventures; Federal intervention into accreditation policies and practices; comparative analysis of regional accreditors and program accreditors at the national level; best practices and successful models for achieving accreditation; regional and national developments, etc.

5. RACEA Resource Center

Focused on: constructing and maintaining the RACEA Web site on Shared Resources and Best Practices, the content for which comes from the other four Task Forces and RACEA's membership (this will require USG budget and technical support); providing consulting assistance from the RACEA network members for mock team reviews of accreditation reports, trouble-shooting institutional problems in achieving compliance, and interpreting accreditation requirements and standards.

These task forces will be composed of RACEA members as well as affiliated colleagues with expertise and interest in the focal area. RACEA members may elect to serve on more than one task force. Task forces will work and meet throughout the year and will actively communicate with the RACEA membership on issues and developments of mutual interest as they arise and by posting their work, findings, reports and minutes on the RACEA Resource Center Web site. Each task force will also prepare an annual presentation of their accomplishments, including an assessment of goal attainment and plans for improvement in the coming year that will be subject to review and discussion by the full membership of RACIE at the annual meeting.

RACEA Executive Committee:

The executive committee will coordinate the business and activities of RACEA and its task forces throughout the year between annual meetings of the membership. It will ensure that the five task forces are operating throughout the year and will coordinate the scheduling and organization of the annual meeting. The Executive Committee will also coordinate RACEA's annual election process. The Executive Committee's membership will include the Chair, Chair-Elect, the 5 Task Force Chairs and RACEA's liaison from the USG administration.

Annual Meeting:

RACEA will meet annually for a two-day retreat to provide a venue for sharing issues, concerns, recommendations for future directions and best practices in the areas of institutional effectiveness and accreditation. This will be scheduled in January or February each year (following the SACS-COC Annual Meeting) and will adhere to a standing agenda that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. **Institutional Accreditation Status Reports & Consulting Assistance Requested**

   Status reports from member institutions undergoing SACS-COC reaffirmation of accreditation, follow-up reviews, substantive change reporting and action, fifth-year reporting and resolution of sanctions or compliance issues with a concluding focus on RACEA's response to requests for providing support and consulting assistance from the membership;

2. **Review & Discussion of Annual Task Force Reports**

   Annual presentations on the accomplishments and goal attainment assessments for each of RACEA's five standing task forces, followed by a substantive discussion of each presentation by the RACEA membership yielding recommendations for the adjustment of task force goals and action plans for the coming year as needed. Presentations will ordinarily be posted on the RACEA Web site for the membership's review in advance of the Annual Meeting;

3. **RACEA Recommendations for USG Policies & Procedures**

   Suggestions and formal recommendations for improvements in USG policies and procedures in the area of institutional effectiveness and accreditation;.

4. **New Developments & Issues**

   RACEA members will have the opportunity to raise issues of concern as well as significant new developments at their institutions;

5. **Professional Development Program/Workshop**

On a rotating basis every five years, each of RACEA's task forces will organize and sponsor a half-day professional development program/workshop on a topic of general interest to the RACEA membership during the Annual Meeting;

6. **Annual Assessment of RACEA**

The membership completes its annual assessment of the extent to which RACEA is achieving its purpose and realizing its vision and takes action as needed to improve its effectiveness in the coming year;

7. **Chair Election Results for RACEA and its Task Forces**

Results from the recently held election are announced for a new Chair-Elect for RACEA. The past year's Chair-Elect becomes the Chair. Election results for the Task Force Chairs in the new year are also announced.

8. **Other Issues.**