SACS, QEP, and OIA*

*Other Important Acronyms

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...with its own mysterious vocabulary.
Acronym: pronounceable name made up of initial letters or parts of words

From the Greek “acr(o)” for tip or end + “onym” for name
- WAC
- OPEC
- NIMBY
- TAMU (when pronounced as one word)
- RADAR (Radio Detecting and Ranging)
- SACS (but not QEP)
Acronyms are meant to make things easier to understand, but sometimes they don’t.

Or to make things more easily accessible, but instead they make them more mysterious.
Some TAMU Acronyms

- TAMU (if pronounced as word)
- FAMIS (Financial Accounting Management Information System)
- COALS (College of Agriculture & Life Sciences)
- SACS
SACS: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
What is SACS?
Why does it matter to TAMU?
Why should staff care?
How can staff contribute?
Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)
- Required by SACS every 10 years
- Focused on student learning
- Addresses a need
- Consistent with institutional culture
Our QEP: “Aggies Commit to Learning for a Lifetime”
Goals & Measures

- **Student learning goal**: improve student learning by developing habits and skills for integrative and lifelong learning.

- **Institutional goal**: create a culture that makes intentional and thoughtful engagement in high-impact learning experiences the norm for A&M students.

- **Collect student reflections**: developing habits & skills for lifelong learning; integration of learning (making connections)

- **Measure** availability, diversity, & quality of high-impact learning and student participation
High-Impact Practices for Student Learning

- High-impact learning experiences share common characteristics:
  - demand substantial and sustained effort on purposeful tasks;
  - put students in circumstances that demand extended interactions with faculty and peers about important issues;
  - increase the likelihood that students experience diversity through interactions with people who are different from themselves;
  - require frequent feedback to student performance;
  - help students’ applications of learning in different settings;
  - often are life-changing experiences.
It will take all of us to create a culture of commitment and turn acronyms into meaningful experiences.
Thank you!

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