Over the past several years, Edinboro has been engaged in our current Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) re-accreditation process. Beginning in Fall 2010, then Provost Philip Ginnetti, along with Professors Trish Hillman of Math and Computer Science, Cynthia Legin-Bucell of Psychology (the three co-chairs for this process), along with Professor Brian Zimmerman of Geosciences and Ms. Judy Kubeja of the Provost’s Office, comprised the Coordinating Committee for this endeavor. The Coordinating Committee has been responsible for guiding the first part of the re-accreditation process, the completion of an institutional self-study process and the resultant document. It is now facilitating and coordinating the second component of the re-accreditation effort, the site visit.

Since the process began, the composition of the Coordinating Committee has changed as a result of the death of Provost Ginnetti. As Interim Provost, I am now also co-chairing the process along with Trish Hillman and Cynthia Legin-Bucell. In addition, Mr. Sean Bliley, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment, was added to the group in 2011 to assist with facilitating data and information requests.

In order to keep the campus community informed, a website was created early on in the process. A link can be found on Edinboro’s home page, http://www.edinboro.edu/selfstudy/. As described on the webpage, all campus constituencies- faculty, students, staff and administrators- have been a part of this work, serving tirelessly as members of the six Working Groups. The primary task of the Working Groups has been to evaluate our compliance with the fourteen standards of the MSCHE and to identify areas for improvement.

We are now at a point where the self-study process is drawing to a close. The first complete draft of our report has been edited and will be updated and revised during the next few months with the final document available for campus review in early 2014. Concurrently, preparations for the second phase of the re-accreditation process, the site visit, have begun. A MSCHE evaluation team composed of faculty and administrators from comparable institutions in the Middle States region has been formed and will have
responsibility for determining Edinboro’s compliance with the MSCHE Standards. This team of eight members will be led by Dr. Jonathan Gribalter, President of Frostburg State University, during their campus visit on **March 30-April 2, 2014**, during which time they will interact with constituencies from across campus. During the last morning of their visit, the team will provide an oral report to the University regarding their findings, and their written report will be shared with the University for our review and comment in the weeks following their visit. The final version of the report will be provided to the University and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

In preparation for the team visit at the end of March, Dr. Gribalter will be visiting our campus on **November 17 and 18, 2013**. While on campus, Dr. Gribalter will be meeting with a variety of constituencies as recommended by the MSCHE: President Wollman, Interim Provost Hannan, members of the Council of Trustees, the Self-Study Steering Committee, the Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Advisory Committee, the two individuals responsible for assessment on campus, Mr. Sean Bliley and Dr. Lisa Joyce, as well as members of the Working Groups, including student members. Dr. Gribalter will also be reviewing local accommodations to determine their suitability for the team and the task.

Over the remainder of the fall semester, weekly postings on the Self-Study website will share key findings from the Working Groups regarding Edinboro University’s compliance with the fourteen (14) standards so that we can share what we have learned prior to the dissemination of the final report next semester. These articles will be presented based upon the report’s organization:

- **Chapter 1 Mission, Goals, and Institutional Assessment** Standards 1 and 7
- **Chapter 2 Planning, Resources and Governance** Standards 2, 3, and 4
- **Chapter 3 Administration, Integrity, and Faculty** Standards 5, 6, and 10
- **Chapter 4 Admissions and Retention** Standards 8 and 9
- **Chapter 5 Curriculum** Standards 11, 12, and 13
- **Chapter 6 Student Learning Outcomes** Standard 14

As will be evident from these newsletters and the report itself, there are areas in which we have done quite well, while in others there is still work to be done. During the past several years, various deficiencies have been brought to the attention of the University’s leadership. This awareness has resulted in new practices and procedures, but such change takes time to produce results. We understand this and are confident that we are moving in a direction to show sustainability of practices which ensure compliance in all areas.

Reaccreditation is important to all of us. Its importance is especially significant for students because it signifies that Edinboro University meets national standards for quality of the educational experience. It also has very practical implications in that only accredited institutions can offer students federal and state financial aid.

Please look for future newsletters so that you are familiar with the MSCHE standards in anticipation of the spring visit. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Mike Hannan (hannan@edinboro.edu), Trish Hillman (Hillman@edinboro.edu), or Cindy Legin-Bucell (leginbucell@edinboro.edu). Special thanks to Cindy Legin-Bucell for her work in writing this newsletter.