

## **The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Reaffirmation of Accreditation**

A committee from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) will visit the CBU campus in March 2011 for the purpose of reaffirming our accreditation. SACS is the accrediting agency that ensures the quality of education in our region. They will send a committee to our campus to meet with selected members of the CBU community. The visit will determine whether CBU continues to meet standards established by the higher education community, and whether it addresses the needs of our students. One important focus of SACS's visit is CBU's Quality Enhancement Plan.

### **The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)**

A significant component of the reaffirmation process is the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for CBU. This plan describes a specific course of action that focuses on learning outcomes and enhancing the environment supporting student learning. The QEP is designed to increase the effectiveness of a key aspect of the education programs relating to student learning. The overall purpose of the QEP is to improve student learning in the next five years and beyond.

### **The Topic of Academic Advising**

CBU's Quality Enhancement Plan focuses on Academic Advising for undergraduate day students. As a result of a series of meetings and focus groups involving stakeholders at CBU over the past two years – including, of course, students – Dr. Scott Geis, QEP director, proposed Academic Advising as CBU's QEP topic. This proposal was approved by Dr. John Smarrelli (President) and Dr. Frank Buscher (Academic Vice President), and endorsed by the Faculty Assembly.

Envisioning Academic Advising as a form of teaching, CBU's QEP seeks to personalize and extend advising to include personal, educational, and career goals, and to develop commitments to lifelong learning and service to society for each student. More specifically, CBU will revise its current approach to advising, develop a systematic training program for advisors, and create a centralized center for advising.

For additional information, please read future updates on the QEP, and feel free to contact any of the members of the QEP Leadership Team: Dr. Scott Geis ([sgeis@cbu.edu](mailto:sgeis@cbu.edu)), Dr. Teri Mason ([tmason@cbu.edu](mailto:tmason@cbu.edu)), Mr. Andy Morgret ([amorgret@cbu.edu](mailto:amorgret@cbu.edu)), Dr. Eric Welch ([ewelch@cbu.edu](mailto:ewelch@cbu.edu)), Dr. Kelli Wildman ([kwildman@cbu.edu](mailto:kwildman@cbu.edu)), Dr. Ann Marie Wranovix ([awranovi@cbu.edu](mailto:awranovi@cbu.edu)), Dr. Arthur Yanushka ([yanushka@cbu.edu](mailto:yanushka@cbu.edu)).