The primary task for “AIE” this academic year, as in the year before it, was arranging and performing reviews of undergraduate programs (majors and free-standing minors) that do not have suitable external reviews. This applies to about half of our undergraduate programs in four schools: ART, HSS, LCM, and SSM. The other schools with undergraduate programs have comprehensive programs of external reviews, as does the graduate school.

The intention is to have a suitable review (internal or external) about every seven years for each such program. This activity is in part related to addressing SACS COC Core Requirement 2.5 and Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1 (see http://oiep.cofc.edu/) particularly with the SACS COC reaffirmation of accreditation process ongoing, and concluding in the Spring. The committee worked in particular with Divya Bhati, Associate Vice President for Assessment and Strategic Planning and some of her staff from The Office for Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning (OIEP).

All but two of the programs originally scheduled for reviews this academic year either arranged for external reviews in the near future, and one needed to postpone, so only one review was performed: for the B.A. in Hispanic Studies.

In this second pass at AIE performing such program reviews, the chair and secretary met with IR staff to design improvements in the timing and content of relevant reports from IR, hoping to make this information available to the programs while preparing their submissions, not only to the committee when evaluating them. However, there is still room for improvement in the design of such reports, so it is proposed to meet again with IR by early Fall 2017.

Also, in early Fall, AIE members went through a training workshop on performing program reviews, provided by Divya Bhati and Josh Bloodworth of OIEP.

With respect to SACS reaffirmation of accreditation and other OIEP issues, Divya Bhati informed us that there is now a web-site for undergraduate and graduate review reports; it is planned to provide our reports this summer, after final editing is complete.

The possibility of meeting with the SACS COC review team was discussed, but in the end did not occur.

Further revisions to AIE’s program review process were discussed; in particular, adding a more specific plan to follow up with program directors, chairs, and deans in the year following each report on the extent to which each program has responded to the comments and recommendations of the review. This should be implemented in AY 2017–2018.