



**Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
Commission on Colleges**

**REPORT OF THE REAFFIRMATION COMMITTEE**

**Statement Regarding the Report**

*The Commission on Colleges is responsible for making the final determination on reaffirmation of accreditation based on the findings contained in this committee report, the institution's response to issues contained in the report, other assessments relevant to the review, and application of the Commission's policies and procedures. Final interpretation of the Principles of Accreditation and final action on the accreditation status of the institution rest with the Commission on Colleges.*

**Name of the Institution:** Edison State College

**Date of the Review:** November 07-10, 2011

**COC Staff Member:** Dr. Barry D. Goldstein

**Chair of the Committee:** Mr. Andrew Fulp

Catalog, along with course descriptions. The Catalog lists degrees and corresponding course work in: Associate in Arts and Associate in Science, the Bachelor of Applied Science programs and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Compliance with this standard is further evidenced in the institution's sample student transcript.

**\*2.8** The number of full-time faculty members is adequate to support the mission of the institution and to ensure the quality and integrity of its academic programs.  
**(Faculty)**

The institution demonstrates commitment to ensuring adequate numbers of faculty to support its mission through increasing the number of full-time faculty by 35% to accommodate a 41% increase in enrollment over five years, and while also increasing the number of full-time faculty from 111 in 2005 to 144 in 2010. Twenty-two new faculty members were added in one year (2009-2010). Throughout this period, the institution has maintained a 23:1 student to faculty ratio. College Operating Procedure 03-0603 and Florida Statute 1012.82 confirm faculty workload requirements emphasize teaching, thus it is important that faculty assignments allow for adequate time to ensure quality of instruction with primacy given to their performance in support of achieving the institutional mission. The Committee's review of institutional Policy Manual Section 6.4e further confirms faculty responsibilities include program development and revision, participation on internal committees such as Foundations of Excellence, and the Quality Enhancement Plan, as well as service on external committees which provide service to the community. Faculty numbers are sufficient to accomplish the work of the committees. Review of the Fall and Spring 2010 Number and Percent of Undergraduate Credit Hours Taught by Full- and Part-time Faculty Members by Locations confirms that full-time faculty members are involved in all programs and disciplines across all locations.

Forty-six percent of the faculty are certified to teach in distance format (the nature of this training was not specified), and nearly 50% of online courses have been developed by full time faculty members. Additionally, the Committee's review of the number and percent of undergraduate credit hours taught through Edison Online confirms full-time faculty members teach in all programs.

Although the off-site response acknowledged the College's commitment to increase full-time faculty over the past five years based on enrollment growth, upon further review by the On-site Committee, it is determined that insufficient and inconsistent documentation is available to verify that the number of full-time faculty is adequate to ensure the quality and integrity of academic programs. Unduplicated headcount for 2009/2010 of 24,262 and lower division FTE of 11,072 with 321 upper division students are reported. This is inconsistent with the total 135 or 144 full-time faculty and reported ratio of 23:1 students to faculty.

The various campuses report undergraduate credit hours taught by full and part-time faculty for each major or program. However, full-time/part-time ratios indicate a lack of sufficient full-time faculty in some core and program areas. For example, at the Lee Campus for Fall 2010, while math and English reported a ratio of over 50% taught by full-time faculty, communications, social/behavioral

sciences and natural sciences are all below 38%. It should also be noted that health professions are at 2.68% for full-time faculty.

Collier Campus reports sufficient full-time faculty in three of the six general education disciplines. It is significant that the nursing program at both remote campuses report over 70% of credit hours taught by full-time faculty.

Edison Online reports only two disciplines and/or programs with over 50% full-time faculty.

Additionally, the College did not provide a narrative that supports their assertion that they provide adequate numbers of qualified full-time faculty at each campus. The Committee also has grave concern regarding workload issues that will affect not only the implementation of the Quality Enhancement Plan but also ensuring the quality and integrity of programs.

**Recommendation 3:** The Committee recommends that the College ensure that the number of full-time faculty members is adequate to support the mission of the institution and to ensure the quality and integrity of its academic programs