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Guidelines for Institutional Effectiveness Plans

In its 1989 session, the North Carolina General Assembly adopted a provision (S.L.1989; C.752; S.80) which mandated that:

"Each college shall develop an institutional effectiveness plan, tailored to the specific mission of the college. This plan shall be consistent with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools criteria and provide for collection of data as required by the 'Critical Success Factors' list."

In order to allow community colleges the flexibility they need to develop an effective plan while meeting the mandates of the General Assembly and the State Board of Community Colleges, the following guidelines should be followed:

- All colleges must develop and implement an annual planning process that results in an institutional effectiveness plan. Colleges have the flexibility to develop biennial plans as long as a process of annual review and revision is in place. It is expected that each college will follow the principles of good planning.
- College plans should address, where appropriate, System identified goals and objectives.
- Colleges must address any special planning mandates of the General Assembly or the State Board of Community Colleges in their plan unless other processes are developed by the System Office to meet those mandates.
- Compliance with the institutional effectiveness plan mandate will be determined by the Education Program Audit staff as part of the annual audit process. The audit staff will be trained to determine the currency of the college's plan and that colleges are responding to any special planning mandates of the General Assembly and the State Board of Community Colleges. The role of the audit staff will be to determine if the college has an ongoing planning process in place and has addressed state mandates where required. The audit staff will not analyze the plans for content or principles of good planning. This responsibility lies with the college and with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Colleges will no longer be required to submit an institutional effectiveness plan to the System Office.
- The Planning and Research Section of the North Carolina Community College System Office will continue to provide technical assistance to the colleges in the area of planning when requested.
- These guidelines will be implemented in the 1999-2000 academic year.

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