The primary thrust of the SCOB in 2006-07 was to immediately identify issues associated with re-accreditation, to facilitate further integration of faculty across all sites into the planning and assessment process, and to support University College at the eCampus, domestic sites and at International sites.

1. Initial activities undertaken in the 2006-07 Academic Year focused on a detailed analysis of ACBSP accreditation standards and the identification of significant issues facing re-accreditation. Significant issues identified included excessive reliance on part-time faculty within the University College and Montgomery SCOB units. In response to these issues, proposals were developed to increase full-time faculty within these units. Approval was granted to add ten (10) new positions within University College and six (6) new positions at the Montgomery Campus.

2. A comprehensive review of the assessment process within the Sorrell College was undertaken and several shortcomings were identified. No mechanism was in place to effectively measure outcomes across sites and delivery mechanisms. As a result of this analysis, the Educational Testing Service Major Field Test was adopted as the primary mechanism for measuring outcomes in the undergraduate BSBA program and the graduate ETS Test was adopted for the MBA and MSM programs. The adoption of these tests now provide for the comparison of TROY outcomes with other comparable institutions and to provide comparisons between sites and delivery mechanisms. The national certification test for human resource professionals was adopted for the MSHRM to facilitate the same levels of comparison.

3. Critical analyses were also undertaken to review credit hour production among the SCOB units and sites. The result of this analysis has resulted in more effective scheduling and utilization of faculty resources.

4. At the request of University College, significant activities were undertaken to develop “course shells” for implementation through the eCampus. During the 06-07 Academic Year course shells were developed for all courses in the business administration core and in the MBA core. The course shells were tied to common outcomes and course objectives to insure common deliver of subject matter at eCampus consistent with the other SCOB sites.

5. The planning and assessment process within the SCOB was completely revised to facilitate a better flow in the process and to integrate faculty representatives from all SCOB sites. This process was focused on insuring comparable outcomes across sites and included discipline coordinating committees with representation from faculty across all sites, the creation of capstone testing committees for each program with the responsibility to develop and administer capstone tests, and the creation of a quality assurance and accreditation committee to oversee assessment processes. The process now flows from the discipline coordinating committees through the capstone assessment committees to the quality assurance committee.
6. The Center for International Business and Economic Development was fully implemented and all strategic objectives for the Center were met by July 2007.

7. The Center for International Business and Economic Development was restructured to encompass the new role, scope and mission of the Center. A satellite center was established on the Dothan Campus in the Summer of 2007. The existing Montgomery Campus center was fully integrated into the Center in the Summer of 2007. The Troy Campus Small Business Development Center was relocated to the Pike County Development Center offices to facilitate a higher level of support and cooperation.

8. A review of programs in the United Arab Emirates was conducted and additional support has been provided to improve the delivery of these programs.

9. An initial relationship was established with a Turkish university for the delivery of SCOB programs in Turkey, along with the exchange of students and faculty. These proposals are currently under consideration by the Turkish Ministry of Education.

10. Approximately ten (10) additional 1-2-1 agreements were initiated and implemented with Chinese Universities resulting in additional Chinese students on the Troy Campus.

11. A comprehensive graduate orientation program was developed for the Montgomery Campus and adopted for use at all sites to orient new graduate students in the SCOB.

12. A detailed analysis of the outcomes from major field tests were undertaken at the end of the 2006-07 year and it was determined that overall performance within the SCOB was approximately at the national average and that certain sites and delivery mechanisms were performing below the averages for the SCOB. Immediate activities were undertaken to address these issues and additional activities well be undertaken in the 2007-08 year. It was also determined that the ETS MFT did not adequately measure outcomes in the individual majors within the College and activities were undertaken to implement capstone tests for each major program.

13. The SCOB supported University College in expansions to three addition teaching sites within the United States and two additional international sites.

14. To facilitate a better review of credentials and certification for part-time faculty, a Credentials Review Committee was implemented and began functioning in August of 2007.

15. A comprehensive effort was undertaken to up-grade technology access at the TROY Campus. Existing lab fee accounts were utilized for the purpose.

16. To improve productivity across sites, two positions were moved from the Dothan Campus to the Troy and Phenix City campuses. Also, a “Lecturer” position was approved for the Phenix City Campus to reduce reliance on part-time faculty.

17. An analysis of faculty teaching loads was undertaken and several faculty were identified as teaching above established University policy. Steps were taken to closer monitor teaching loads and University policies were reaffirmed.

18. Through aggressive contracting activities in the Center for International Business and Economic Development, additional contract research was brought into the Center and the Center initiated waterway research activities that have led to a
presence in this research area. Initial activities have resulted in new projects for 2007-08. An additional research economist was added to the Center staff to support these activities.