



SACS to evaluate Barry next week

By Chiqui Gonzalez

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools evaluates each of its members once every ten years. On March 19, the Association's Evaluating Committee will arrive at Barry to reaffirm the college's present accreditation with the S.A.C.S. The Committee will remain until March 22.

The Evaluating Committee is composed of educators from other southern colleges. Evaluating Barry will be: Rev. Patrick O'Braden, Chairman, who is the President of the University of St. Thomas; Mr. Peter V. Daniel, Vice President and Treasurer of Sweet Briar College; Sister Mary Eleanor Fox S.N.D., Physics Professor at Thomas Moore College; Mr. James E. Gaines, Director of the Library at Birmingham Southern College; Miss Iva Gibson, Dean of Students at Winthrop College; Dr. E.C. Harrison, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Southern University; Dr. Bessie Jones, English Professor at Alabama A and M University; Dr. Hugh McEniry, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Mrs. Elisa Vazques, Worden School of Social Work at Our Lady of the Lake College; Dr. Everett Wilson who is on leave from Sam Houston State University and

David T. Kelly, Associate Executive Secretary of the Commission on Colleges.

Barry has been preparing for this evaluation since September 1970. During this year and a half a Self Study Program has been in effect. The purpose of this program was a critical self-evaluation of the college and the preparation of a guidebook for the evaluators.

Every aspect of the college was studied and appraised including each of Barry's seventeen departments plus the graduate division and the School of Social Work. Guiding the Self Study Program was a steering committee with Sister Agnes Louise Stechschulte serving as Chairman. She was aided by Sister Rita Schaefer, Mrs. Neill Miller, Mr. Alfred McCollough and Dr. Harry R. Elden.

The Southern Association has eleven standards by which it evaluates a college. They are: Purpose — what the statement of purpose is and how the college endeavors to fulfill it; Organization and Administration — how well the institution coordinates its various resources to accomplish its objectives; Educational Program — the manner in which the various programs relate to the purpose; Financial Resources — both present use of financial resources in ac-

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cordance with the purpose and projected financial plans; Faculty — the relationship of the faculty and its objectives to the institutional purpose, their background and provisions for job security; Library — the quantity and quality of its collection, organization and effectiveness; Student personnel — programs of student activities, orientation, enrichment series and adequate personal information on every student; Physical Plant — existing facilities, maintenance and plans for expansion; Special Activities — activities which supplement the regular college program, their accreditation in the case of foreign exchanges and agreement with the institutional purpose; Graduate Program — the program itself and the strength, both financial and academic, of the institution offering the program; and Research — policies concerning research, the use of funds and the preservation of the investigator's freedom.

Additional Committees were formed to evaluate each of these standards. Serving on the committees were administrators, faculty members, students (both graduate and undergraduate), alumni, trustees and members of the Board of Directors. Reports by the individual committees were submitted during the summer, fall and winter of 1971. These reports included present statistics and projected plans. Sister Trinita Flood edited the various reports which were compiled into the guidebook.

Rumors that the evaluation is being conducted because Barry is going to close are entirely false. The evaluations are part of the S.A.C.S.' standard procedure. The Self Study that must be conducted provides the college with an educational experience. According to Sister Agnes Louise.

"The Barry Community is appreciative of this opportunity to review its function and its goals. It is optimistically hopeful of a positive report."

This evaluation cannot be thought of in terms of pass-fail. It is a critical assessment of the college as a whole and of each individual part. In the final report Barry's strengths and its weaknesses will be noted. The report also carries suggestions as to improvements that the evaluators might consider necessary.

When asked what she thought the outcome of the evaluation would be, Sister Rita Schaefer replied, "We can be proud of Barry and as with any living thing there must be growth and change." Sister Rita likened the college's pre-evaluation feelings to those of a student about to take his final exams. "You know that you are prepared and that you have studied but there is always a chance of the unexpected."

During their stay, the members of the Evaluating Committee will also be interested in speaking with students. Emphasis is placed not only on pure academic standards but also on the inter-relationships of the community members.

For those who expect to know the evaluator's decision immediately the wait will indeed be long. The evaluating Committee will make a preliminary oral report to Barry's President Sister M. Dorothy Browne before it leaves. The Committee will then submit a written report to Sister Dorothy and the S.A.C.S. This report will be reviewed by the Commission on Colleges of the S.A.C.S. in the Fall. At their annual meeting in December the Association will vote on college accreditations. The outcome of this vote should be available to the Barry Community sometime in December.