ATS Accreditation Steering Committee

The first meeting of the ATS Accreditation Steering Committee opened its first meeting at 9 a.m., January 18, 2011, in the Goodwin Board Room at Virginia Theological Seminary.

Present were:
- Ian Markham, Dean and President, ex officio
- Sissy Poland, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees
- Judy Fentress-Williams, professor of Old Testament
- Rebecca Edwards, Student Body President, class of 2011
- Matthew Koslowski, class of 2011
- Oran Warder, Rector St. Paul’s, Alexandria, alumnus
- Timothy Sedgwick, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Director of Accreditation Review
- Katie Glover, Officer for Institutional Effectiveness and Planning
- Linda Lanam, ATS Self-Study Administrator and Editor
- Guest: M.Budde, faculty and Head Librarian, co-chair of 2003 ATS Accreditation Steering Committee

Absent: Rebecca Edwards, Student Body President, class of 2011

T.Sedgwick opened the meeting. I.Markham began with an opening prayer.

Following a review of the agenda, extended introductions were made including reflections on why persons said yes to the invitation to serve on the Steering Committee and what hopes they had for the accreditation review process. Consistently persons spoke of their hope that the process would support and serve the Seminary in developing a shared, mutually supportive culture of assessment and strategic planning.

M.Budde offered a review of the ATS accreditation process and offered an itinerary of that process, including specifying expectations and requirements of ATS accreditation standards, priority of data gathering and assessment, outstanding issues to be addressed given the 2003 accreditation review, and the character of the accreditation visitation. I.Markham offered reflections on how periodic accreditations reviews serve the theological seminary in holding before the seminary an honest view of itself and making recommendations. Discussion followed.

Following a break, discussion continued by walking through the accreditation standards with persons identifying changes and challenges at VTS since 2003. Attention was given to the major foci which ATS expects to be addressed and specific issues before VTS including assessment and planning. The meeting concluded with final discussion of next steps, which include developing agenda and schedules for the working committees and identifying specific questions and issues that need to be addressed, Linda Lanam indicated she would be vetting agenda, schedules, questions and issues, and documentation available with the Steering Committee in the months ahead. The next meeting of the Steering Committee in April or early May can then review the proposed structure and mandates for the working committees, which will have their initial organizational meetings in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

01.18.11/tfs
Attachments: Agenda for the meeting; 01.18.11 Draft ATS Self Study Committees and Schedule