



SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS  
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

# Kentucky Interim Joint Committee

Stephen L. Pruitt, Ph.D.

President

# SACSCOC-Who We Are, Where We've Been

▶ “The heart of the U.S. accreditation system is the accreditation team itself: a small group of peer practitioners from other institutions who come together to assess a college’s compliance with accreditation standards.”

▶ (Patricia McGuire, “Accreditation’s Benefits for Individuals and Institutions,” 2029, p. 29)



# The Role and Scope of SACSCOC

- ▶ Purpose of Accreditation
- ▶ Structure of SACSCOC
- ▶ Overview of the Review Process

# Key Traditional Purposes of Accreditation



**QUALITY**



**STANDARDS**

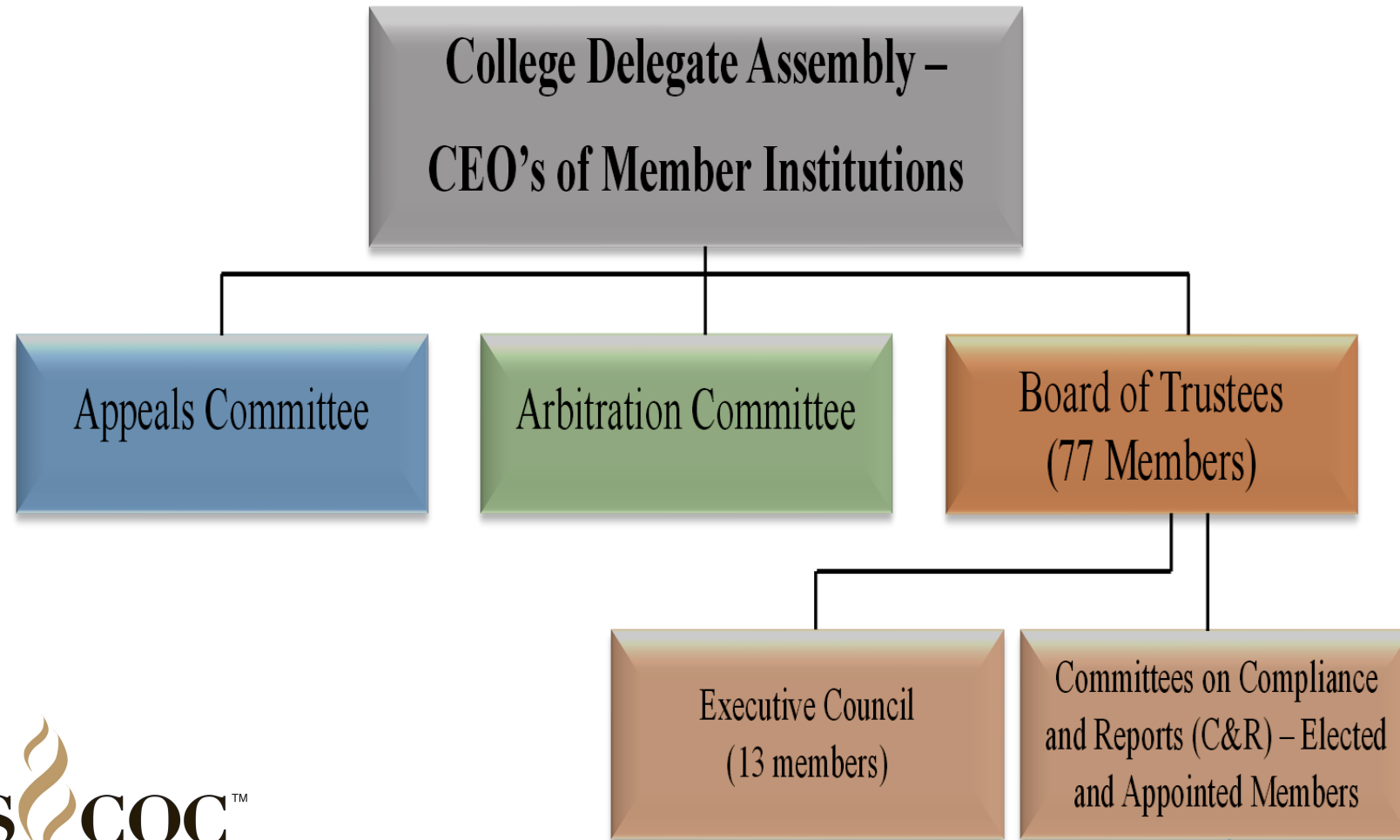


**GATEKEEPER**

# Three Dimensions of U.S. Accreditation That Are Unique:

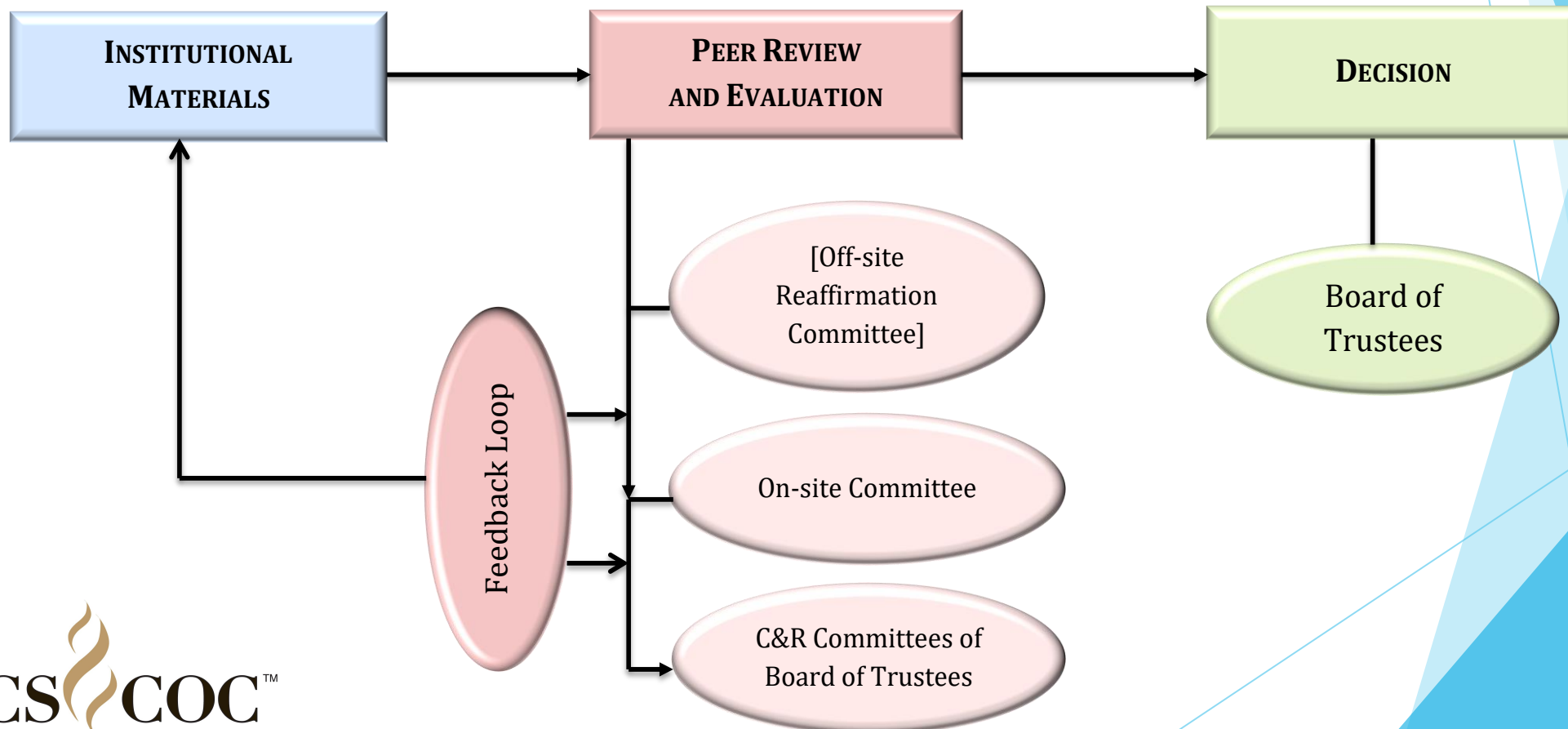
- U.S. Accreditation is a non-governmental, self-regulatory, peer review system.
- Much of the work & decisions are made by peer volunteers in the profession (emphasis on the practitioner).
- Accreditation relies on the candor of institutions to assess themselves against a set of standards viewed in light of their mission....it is a process of “guided self-improvement.”

# Structure of SACSCOC



# Accreditation Process

## *PRINCIPLES OF ACCREDITATION: FOUNDATIONS FOR QUALITY ENHANCEMENT*





# Number of Findings of Non-Compliance at 3 Decennial Review Stages (N=1,147)

(Reaffirmation Class of 2024, Off-site n=82 | On-site and C&R n=81)

Off-Site

1,016

On-Site

99

Board C&R

32

# SACSCOC-Where Do We Go From Here?

# Pruitt's Career Pillars

- ▶ Student Opportunity (Students First, Always)
- ▶ Achievement
- ▶ Integrity

# Keys To SACSCOC Future Success

- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ Service with Accountability
- ▶ Having Stakeholders vs Building Shareholders

# The Future Role of SACSCOC

- ▶ SACSCOC As
  - ▶ The Gold Standard
  - ▶ The Influencer
  - ▶ Innovator

# 100 Day Plan

1. Commitment to Communication
2. Revising the Principles of Accreditation
3. Modernizing Processes
4. Supporting All Institutions
5. Reimagining the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)
6. Encouraging Innovation
7. Expanding Membership Options



# SACSCOC - Students First Always



Thank you!