



January 13, 2015



Dr. W. Randolph Woodson  
Chancellor  
North Carolina State University  
A Holladay Hall; Campus Box 7001  
Raleigh, NC 27695-7001

Dear Dr. Woodson:

The following action regarding your institution was taken by the Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges during its meeting held on December 7, 2014:

The SACSCOC Board of Trustees reaffirmed accreditation with a request for a Monitoring Report due **September 8, 2015**. Your institution's next reaffirmation will take place in 2024 unless otherwise notified. The Monitoring Report should address the visiting committee's recommendation applicable to the following referenced standard of the *Principles of Accreditation*:

**CS 3.3.1.1 (Institutional effectiveness: educational programs), Recommendation 1**  
*This standard expects an institution to identify expected outcomes, assess the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provide evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results in its educational programs, including student learning outcomes.*

The institution reported that, until summer 2014, assessment of academic programs had been an expectation but not University policy. Based on the evidence provided, it is not clear that the institution has completed a full cycle of student learning outcomes assessment and documented use of results for improvement in each of its educational programs. The institution should demonstrate that its educational programs identify outcomes, including student learning outcomes, assess the outcomes, and use the results for improvement. As part of its response, the institution may provide a sampling of its programs as long as the sample is representative of its mission and includes a valid cross-section of programs from every college or division. If a sample of educational programs is provided, the institution should present a compelling rationale as to why the sample and assessment findings are an appropriate representation of its educational programs.

Please submit to your Commission staff member, preferably by email, a **one-page** executive summary of your institution's Quality Enhancement Plan. The summary is due **February 16, 2015**, and should include on the same page the following information: (1) the title of your Quality Enhancement Plan, (2) your institution's name, and (3) the name, title, and email address of an individual who can be contacted regarding its development or implementation. This summary will be posted to the Commission's website as a resource for other institutions undergoing the reaffirmation process.



Dr. W. Randolph Woodson  
January 13, 2015  
Page Two

All institutions are requested to submit an "Impact Report of the Quality Enhancement Plan on Student Learning" as part of their "Fifth-Year Interim Report" due five years before their next reaffirmation review. Institutions will be notified 11 months in advance by the President of SACSCOC regarding the specific due date. Directions for completion of the report will be included.

Guidelines for the monitoring report are enclosed. Because it is essential that institutions follow these guidelines, **please make certain that those responsible for preparing the report receive the document. If there are any questions about the format, contact the Commission staff member assigned to your institution.** When submitting your report, please send **four copies** to your Commission staff member.

Please note that Federal regulations and Commission policy stipulate that an institution must demonstrate compliance with all requirements and standards of the *Principles of Accreditation* within two years following SACSCOC Board of Trustees' initial action on the institution. At the end of that two-year period, if the institution does not comply with all standards and requirements of the *Principles*, representatives from the institution may be required to appear before the Board, or one of its standing committees, to answer questions as to why the institution should not be removed from membership. If the Board of Trustees determines good cause at that time and the institution has not been on Probation for both years during the two-year monitoring period, the Board may extend the period for coming into compliance for a minimum of six months and a maximum of two years and must place the institution on Probation. An institution may be on Probation for a maximum of two years. If the Board does not determine good cause or if the institution does not come into compliance within two years while on Probation, the institution must be removed from membership. (See enclosed Commission policy "Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership.")

If you have questions, please contact the Commission staff member assigned to your institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.  
President

BSW:ktf

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Nuria M. Cuevas