



January 12, 2022

Dr. Scott Gordon
President
Stephen F. Austin State University
P.O. Box 6078, SFA Station
Nacogdoches, TX 75962

Dear Dr. Gordon:

The following action regarding your institution was taken by the Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) during its meeting held on December 2, 2021:

The SACSCOC Board of Trustees reaffirmed accreditation with a request for a Monitoring Report due **September 8, 2022**. Your institution's next reaffirmation will take place in 2031 unless otherwise notified. The Monitoring Report should address the visiting committee's recommendation applicable to the following referenced standard of the *Principles of Accreditation*:

Standard 8.2.b (Student outcomes: general education), Recommendation 1
This standard expects an institution to identify expected student learning outcomes, assess the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provide evidence of seeking improvement based on analysis of the results for collegiate-level general education competencies of its undergraduate degree programs.

The institution demonstrated that expected student learning outcomes have been identified for its collegiate-level general education competencies. The institution also provided documentation of new plans to identify, analyze, assess, and demonstrate improvement in the area of general education outcomes for its undergraduate degree programs. However, the institution did not demonstrate that it has fully implemented the new plan. As part of its report, the institution should demonstrate that it identifies expected student learning outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves the outcomes, and provides evidence of seeking improvement based on an analysis of the results for collegiate-level general education competencies of its undergraduate degree programs.

Also, please submit to your SACSCOC staff member, preferably by email, a **one-page** executive summary of your institution's Quality Enhancement Plan. The summary is due **February 15, 2022**, 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 SACSCOC's website as a resource for other institutions undergoing the reaffirmation process.



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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 its specific due date. Directions for completion of the report will be included.

Guidelines for the Monitoring Report are enclosed. Since 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 **three (3) copies** to your SACSCOC staff member.

Please note that Federal regulations and SACSCOC's policy stipulate that an institution must demonstrate compliance with all requirements and standards of the *Principles of Accreditation (Principles)* within two years following the 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 the specified period of time while on Probation, the institution must be removed from membership. (See enclosed SACSCOC policy, *Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership*, which includes the provision for a determination of Good Cause.)

We appreciate your continued support of SACSCOC's work and activities. If you have questions, please contact the SACSCOC 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:lbw

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover, Vice President, SACSCOC