The following publicly available information is provided by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) concerning the accreditation of Bethune-Cookman University. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC’s disclosure policy; staff of SACSCOC cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Bethune-Cookman University. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

**Action by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees took place on June 13, 2019, and the institution’s next review is June 2020.**

**What is the accreditation status of Bethune-Cookman University?** Bethune-Cookman University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was continued on Probation for 12 months after review of the institution’s Monitoring Report and a Special Committee Report related to the governing board, control of finances, the external finances and CEO. Prior to the institution’s next review by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees in June 2020, a Special Committee will conduct an on-site evaluation of its compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*—the accreditation standards of the Commission. SACSCOC accreditation includes all components of the institution—all programs, branch campuses, off-campus sites, and distance learning programs as reported to SACSCOC; thus, the Probation status applies to the entire institution.

**What does it mean to be continued on Probation?** Probation is the Commission’s most serious sanction, short of loss of membership, and can be imposed on an institution for failure to correct deficiencies of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements and Standards of the *Principles of Accreditation* of the Commission; failure to make timely and significant progress toward correcting the deficiencies; or failure to comply with Commission policies and procedures. The imposition of Probation is an indication of the gravity of non-compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*. Probation may be imposed upon initial institutional review, depending on the judgment of the Commission of the seriousness of the non-compliance or in the case of repeated violations recognized by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees over a period of time. The maximum consecutive times that an institution may be on Probation is two years. In June 2020, Bethune-Cookman University will have been on Probation for two years. For additional information about sanctions, refer to SACSCOC’s policy entitled “Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership”.

**Why was Bethune-Cookman University continued on Probation?** Bethune-Cookman University was continued on Probation because the SACSCOC Board of Trustees determined that the institution had failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 4.1 (Governing board characteristics) and Core Requirement 13.1 (Financial resources), as well as Standard 4.2.b (Board/administration distinction), Standard 13.3 (Financial responsibility), and Standard 13.4 (Control of finances) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. These standards expect an institution (1) has a governing board of at least five members that: (a) is the legal body with specific authority over the institution, (b) exercises fiduciary oversight of the institution, (c) ensures that both the presiding officer of the board, and a majority of other voting members of the board are free of any contractual, employment, personal, or familial financial interest in the institution, (d) is not controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations or institutions separate from it, and (e) is not presided over by the chief executive officer of the institution; (2) to have sound financial resources and a demonstrated, stable financial base to support the mission of the institution and the scope of its programs and services; (3) the institution’s governing board to ensure a clear and appropriate distinction between the policy-making function of the board and the responsibility of the administration and faculty to administer and implement policy; (4) to manage its financial resources in a responsible manner; and (5) to exercise appropriate control over all its financial resources. (To read the full statement for the standards cited above, access the *Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement*.)

**What will happen in June 2020?** The SACSCOC Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Bethune-Cookman University following review of a Special Committee Report and a Monitoring Report submitted by the institution addressing the standards cited above for non-compliance. The Board will have the following options: (1) remove the institution from Probation without an additional report; or (2) remove the institution from membership for failure to comply with the standards. Commission staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees in June 2020.

For additional information regarding SACSCOC’s accreditation process, access the *Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement*. 

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*Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)*

*http://www.sacscoc.org*

**Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of BETHUNE-COOKMAN UNIVERSITY**

Daytona Beach, Florida

**Issued June 13, 2019, by SACSCOC**