The following publicly available information is provided by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) concerning the accreditation of Clarendon College. Information presented below is in accord with the SACSCOC disclosure policy; staff of SACSCOC cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Clarendon College. 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 Clarendon College? Clarendon College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was placed on Warning for twelve (12) months after review of the institution's response following the Commission's receipt of unsolicited information from a formal complaint that addressed ongoing compliance with standards related to governance. 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 the institution's 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 Warning status applies to the entire institution.

What does Warning mean? Warning is a public sanction imposed by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees following determination of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements or Standards of SACSCOC's Principles of Accreditation; failure to make timely and significant progress toward correcting the deficiencies that led to the finding of non-compliance; or failure to comply with SACSCOC policies and procedures. The maximum total time during one monitoring period that an institution may be on Warning is two years. In June 2020, Clarendon College will have been on Warning for twelve months. For additional information about sanctions, see SACSCOC's policy entitled “Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership.”

Why was Clarendon College placed on Warning? Clarendon College was placed on Warning because the SACSCOC Board of Trustees determined that the institution had failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 4.1.d (Board characteristics), Standard 4.2.b (Board/administrative distinction), and Standard 4.2.d (Conflict of interest) of the Principles of Accreditation. This Core Requirement and Standards expect an institution to (1) have a governing board that is not controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations or institutions separate from it; (2) have a 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; and (3) the institution's governing board defines and addresses potential conflict of interest for its members. (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 Clarendon College following review of a Monitoring Report addressing the standards cited above for non-compliance. The Board will have the following options: (1) remove the institution from Warning without an additional report; (2) remove the institution from Warning and request a Fifth Year Follow-Up Report; (3) continue the institution on Warning, request a monitoring report, with or without authorizing a Special Committee visit; (4) place the institution on Probation, request a monitoring report, and authorize a Special Committee visit; and (5) 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.