Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE
South Prince George, Virginia
Issued June 13, 2019, by SACSCOC

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

Action by 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 Richard Bland College? Richard Bland College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was denied reaffirmation, continued in accreditation, and placed on Warning for twelve months following SACSCOC Board action on its comprehensive decennial review. 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 it mean to be denied reaffirmation, continued in accreditation, and placed on Warning? A Warning imposed by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees at the time of an institution’s comprehensive decennial review follows a determination of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements or Standards of the Principles of Accreditation—the accreditation standards of SACSCOC; failure to make timely and significant progress toward correcting the deficiencies that led to the findings 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, Richard Bland College will have been on Warning for one year. For additional information about sanctions, see SACSCOC’s policy entitled “Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership.”

Why was Richard Bland College denied reaffirmation, continued in accreditation, and placed on Warning? Richard Bland College was denied reaffirmation, continued in accreditation, and placed on Warning because the SACSCOC Board of Trustees determined that it had failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 13.1 (Financial resources) and Core Requirement 13.2 (Financial documents) of the Principles of Accreditation. A Special Committee was not authorized to visit the institution. These Core Requirements expect an institution to (1) 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; and (2) provide the following financial statements: (a) an institutional audit (or Standard Review Report issued in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the AICPA for those institutions audited as part of a system-wide or statewide audit) for the most recent fiscal year prepared by an independent certified public accountant and/or an appropriate governmental auditing agency employing the appropriate audit (or Standard Review Report) guide; (b) a statement of financial position of unrestricted net assets, exclusive of plant assets and plant-related debt, which represents the change in unrestricted net assets attributable to operations for the most recent year; and (c) an annual budget that is preceded by sound planning, is subject to sound fiscal procedures, and is approved by the governing board. (To read the full statements for the standards cited above, access the Principles of Accreditation: Foundation for Quality Enhancement.)

What will happen in June 2020? The SACSCOC Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Richard Bland College following a review of a Monitoring Report submitted by the institution addressing the standards cited above for non-compliance. The Board will have the following options: (1) reaffirm accreditation and remove the institution from Warning without an additional report; (2) reaffirm accreditation and remove the institution from Warning and request a Fifth-Year Follow-Up Report; (3) deny reaffirmation, continue accreditation, continueWarning, request a Monitoring Report, with or without authorizing a Special Committee; (4) deny reaffirmation, continue accreditation, place the institution on Probation, request a Monitoring Report, and authorize a Special Committee; and (5) remove the institution from membership for failure to comply with the Principles of Accreditation. Commission staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the Board of Trustees in June 2020.

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