The following publicly available information is provided by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) concerning the accreditation of Southwestern Christian College. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC’s disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Southwestern Christian 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 Southwestern Christian College?** Southwestern Christian 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, Southwestern Christian 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 Southwestern Christian College denied reaffirmation, continued in accreditation, and placed on Warning?** Southwestern Christian 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) as well as Standards 5.4 (Qualified administrative/academic officers), 5.5 (Personnel appointment and evaluation), 6.2.a (Faculty qualifications), 6.3 (Faculty appointment and evaluation), 7.2 (Quality Enhancement Plan), 7.3 (Administrative effectiveness), 8.2.c (Student outcomes: academic and student services), and 13.4 (Control of finances) of the Principles of Accreditation. A Special Committee was not authorized to visit the institution. These standards expect an institution to (1) 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; (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; (3) employ administrative and academic officers with appropriate experience and qualifications to lead the institution and this standard expects an institution to evaluate those administrative and academic officers; (4) publish and implement policies regarding the appointment, employment, and regular evaluation of non-faculty personnel; (5) to justify and document the qualifications of its faculty members; (6) to publish and implement policies regarding the appointment, employment, and regular evaluation of faculty members, regardless of contract or tenure status; (7) to have a Quality Enhancement Plan that (a) has a topic identified through its ongoing, comprehensive planning and evaluation processes; (b) has broad-based support of institutional constituencies; (c) focuses on improving specific student learning outcomes and/or student success; (d) commits resources to initiate, implement, and complete the QEP; and (e) includes a plan to assess achievement; (8) to identify expected outcomes of its administrative support services and demonstrate the extent to which the outcomes are achieved; (9) to identify expected outcomes, assess the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provide evidence of seeking improvement based on analysis of the results for its academic and student services that support student success; and (10) to exercise appropriate control over all its financial resources. (To read the full statements 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 Southwestern Christian 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, continue Warning, 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: Foundations for Quality Enhancement.*