



*Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
Commission on Colleges  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097*

## **LITIGATION: INSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

### **Policy Statement**

#### **Costs of Compliance with Third-Party Discovery Requests**

The costs of compliance with third-party discovery requests made on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) with regard to member institutions can be high and cannot be reasonably anticipated for budgeting purposes. To defray these costs in part, where reimbursement for copying and delivery costs is not offered to SACSCOC by the party serving the subpoena or document request, SACSCOC may charge copying and delivery costs at a reasonable rate to the member institution the documents of which are the object of the subpoena or request.

*Approved: Executive Council, February 2006*

*Edited: Executive Council, December 2022*

#### **Institutional Financial Obligations Following Litigation**

Any member or candidate institution that takes legal action against the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) regarding an accreditation decision and withdraws from candidacy or membership, arbitration, or the legal process; or loses its case during arbitration or the legal process, is responsible for assuming all costs incurred by SACSCOC while defending its position, including attorney fees. These costs must be paid in full within 45 days following the institution's receipt of SACSCOC's invoice, unless other arrangements are approved by the Executive Council acting on behalf of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees.

For an institution seeking accreditation as a separately accredited unit, SACSCOC will not accept an application nor authorize a candidacy committee until all obligations have been paid in full.

*Revised: SACSCOC Board of Trustees, June 2009*

*Edited: Executive Council, December 2022*

*Revised: Executive Council, March 2023*

*Revised: SACSCOC Board of Trustees, June 2023*

#### **Choice of Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue**

As a condition of receiving membership or candidacy for membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), each institution concedes that all agreements created by SACSCOC granting such status shall be deemed to have been entered into in DeKalb County, Georgia, and shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia. Further, each institution agrees that

jurisdiction and venue for any action which might arise from any membership agreement between the institution and SACSCOC, regardless of which party shall initiate the action, shall be exclusively in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia or the state courts of DeKalb County, Georgia, whichever of these courts shall have proper subject matter jurisdiction. SACSCOC shall notify all institutions seeking or accorded status with that body that the provisions of this Bylaw are a condition of the institution's being accorded any status with SACSCOC. (*Bylaws of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, Article XII, Legal Action*)

*From the Bylaws of SACSCOC, July 2005*

*Approved for inclusion into Commission policy: Commission on Colleges, December 2007*

*Edited: August 2014*

*Reformatted: August 2018*

*Edited: Executive Council, December 2022*