Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
PFEIFFER UNIVERSITY
Misenheimer, North Carolina
Issued December 8, 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 Pfeiffer University. Information presented below is in accord with the SACSCOC disclosure policy; staff of SACSCOC cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Pfeiffer University. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

Action by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees took place on December 8, 2019, and the institution’s next review is June 2020.

What is the accreditation status of Pfeiffer University? Pfeiffer University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was placed on Warning for six (6) months after review of the institution’s monitoring report following denial of a substantive change submitted in June 2019. A Special Committee was not authorized to visit the institution. 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, Pfeiffer University will have been on Warning for six (6) months. For additional information about sanctions, see SACSCOC’s policy entitled “Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership.”

Why was Pfeiffer University placed on Warning? Pfeiffer University was placed on Warning because the SACSCOC Board of Trustees determined that the institution failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 13.1 (Financial resources), Core Requirement 13.2 (Financial documents), and Standard 13.3 (Financial responsibility) of the Principles of Accreditation. These Core Requirements and Standard 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 AICPS 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 (of 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; and (3) manage its financial resources in a responsible manner. (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 Pfeiffer University 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.