

MEMORANDUM

TO: SACSCOC Membership

FROM: Belle S. Wheelan, President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges

DATE: August 17, 2020

SUBJECT: SACSCOC Annual Meeting & Information

Greetings, Colleagues. I do hope the beginning of the fall semester is a successful one.

I am writing to you with a few updates. I will also send you an email the second week in September with updates from the rescheduled SACSCOC Board meeting.

I. 2020 SACSCOC Annual Meeting

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), our parent organization, and we don't want to miss the opportunity to highlight this milestone. Additionally, we want to continue to provide professional development for our members as is our custom in December each year. However, with the continued concern surrounding the health and safety of in-person large gatherings, we have cancelled our plans to host the meeting in Nashville in December of this year.

The SACSCOC Executive Council, however, has approved the offering of a **virtual** SACSCOC Annual Meeting for December 2020. We anticipate this being a great opportunity for those who have never attended an Annual Meeting to do so this year. We are, therefore, making plans for the 2020 Virtual SACSCOC Annual Meeting to begin with pre-conference workshops on Wednesday and Thursday, December 2-3, 2020, followed by general conference activities commencing on Friday, December 3rd, and ending on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 (excluding Saturday and Sunday). Given that our institutions are located in three different time zones, the activities would begin at 11:00 am EST and run until about 5:00 pm EST.

Staff are currently making the necessary updates to the registration site to open registration the week of August 24th. Be sure to monitor our website for updated information regarding registration. We have set the conference registration fee for representatives from member and candidate institutions at \$250 per person. The registration fee for the pre-conference workshops is \$50. If you have any questions about the virtual conference, please email annmtg@sacscoc.org. I look forward to your participation in December.

II. Evaluators

In reviewing the institutional members in our Evaluator Registry, we have found that we need more Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), Chief Financial Officers (CFOs), and Institutional Accreditation Liaisons (IALs) to accept invitations to serve on peer review committees. While CEOs are automatically added to the Registry, CFOs and IALs are approved by each of you for service. We seem to have a large enough number registered (though we can always use more so we don't burn out those we have), there is a high number of non-acceptances or cancellations.

For CEOs especially, we try to give you six to 12 months advanced notice so that you can arrange your plans to serve. While we know things happen to cancel your acceptance, it appears to be happening in larger numbers than we've recorded in the past. PLEASE remember that, not only is this professional development for you, it is your responsibility to assist your colleagues in being the strongest institution they can be.

III. New Federal Regulation

Effective July 1, 2020, any institution that is placed on PROBATION must now submit a teach-out plan with its response to the SACSCOC Board. This FEDERAL regulation was a part of the negotiated rulemaking that occurred last year and was included to protect students from being left with no academic resources when an institution closed.

IV Survey

In a short time, you will receive a survey from SACSCOC that is designed to share with the Commission all of the challenges and successes your institution has and is experiencing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please take some time to provide responses to the questions. It is not designed to take a great deal of time but we are interested in your thoughtful responses.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you. Please stay safe and have a great semester.