

MEMORANDUM

TO: SACSCOC Membership

FROM: Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, President

DATE: October 20, 2020

SUBJECT: SACSCOC Updates

Greetings to one and all! I do hope the semester is moving along smoothly and that you're continuing to respond effectively to the challenges provided by the pandemic. I am writing to give you a few updates as you plan for the spring 2021 semester. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

NO MORE WAIVERS

The waivers extended by the U.S. Department of Education to institutions to offer courses via distance learning will expire on December 31, 2020. As of today, **NO EXTENSIONS** past that date have been provided. I have written several times to the institutions that had benefitted from those waivers to remind them that if they plan to offer courses via distance in the spring 2021 semester, they **MUST** get SACSCOC approval. The deadline to submit a prospectus for the spring has now passed. If you have not applied for approval (the SACSCOC Board will take action on those requests in December) and you offer courses in the spring, you will be **OUT OF COMPLIANCE** with our Standards.

Emergency temporary relocation of instruction

For winter, spring, summer, and fall 2020 terms:

All emergency temporary relocation of instruction notifications received for the winter, spring, summer, and fall 2020 term were extended by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees for approval through December 31, 2020. No further action is necessary at this time for instruction through the end of the calendar year. These notifications and approvals cannot be extended and apply to all submissions through the end of the calendar year.

For winter and spring 2021 terms:

For the winter and spring 2021 terms, temporary emergency relocation is required only if instruction relocates after the beginning of the term such that it represents a change in delivery modality or location that was in place on the first day of instruction for the term. If you begin the winter or spring 2021 term by distance delivery or at alternate already-approved sites, emergency temporary relocation notification or approval is not required. We are not currently accepting emergency relocation notifications or approval requests for instruction beyond December 31, 2020, but will provide additional directions later as needed.

This guidance is subject to change. If anything changes, I will send you an email to that effect. You can also check the SACSCOC website at <https://www.sacscoc.org/coronavirus-and-the-commission/> as additional information becomes available. A report of all relocation approvals is available at the link above, primarily for the benefit of third-parties, viz., USDE financial aid or the Department of Homeland Security: Feel free to direct them to the report or share this email as needed.

Links to Student Achievement Data

SACSCOC is preparing for renewal of its recognition with the U.S. Department of Education. It is a process similar to the reaffirmation process each of your institutions must undergo. Toward that end, it is highly probable that a random selection of your websites will be checked to ensure that WE monitor them to ensure that you comply with the requirement to make your student achievement data available. Recently, we randomly selected websites from 80 institutional members and found that (1) some links were not working and (2) some data was not up to date. PLEASE check your websites and make sure the information is available and current and that SACSCOC has the most current link to your information.

Spring 2021 SACSCOC Meetings and Visits

All SACSCOC meetings and visits, both on and off-site, will be held virtually in the spring 2021 semester. If you are serving on an Off- or On-Site Committee, please DO NOT purchase an airline ticket. If you have already done so, please speak with your SACSCOC VP to find out how to handle the situation.

THANK YOU for your continued support of SACSCOC. Please don't forget to plan to participate in the SACSCOC Virtual Annual Meeting. Check the SACSCOC website for registration information and the meeting schedule. I look forward to 'seeing' you at the Meeting. As always, STAY SAFE!