



MEMORANDUM

TO: CEOs of SACSCOC Institutions

FROM: Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, President

DATE: January 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Update from the SACSCOC Annual Meeting/SACSCOC Board Meeting

Happy New Year! I hope you were able to get some much-deserved rest during the holidays and that you and your family stayed healthy and safe. This memo is being sent as a way of sharing information from the SACSCOC Annual Meeting and SACSCOC Board of Trustees meeting that were held this past December, as well as some tidbits of information for your use and information. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RECOGNITION/CHEA

We were successful in gaining renewal of our recognition from the U. S. Department of Education for four (4) years. We have a follow-up report due in early fall at which point we anticipate being granted a fifth year.

We also earned a five-year renewal of our recognition from CHEA with no recommendations or follow-up report.

PRINCIPLES REVIEW COMMITTEE

As you know, an *ad hoc* Committee to review the *Principles of Accreditation* was established last year. In addition to considering several tweaks to the current *Principles* that have been brought to our attention, there are two new areas this Committee was asked to consider: (1) A new standard on shared governance or an expansion of our standard on Academic Governance, and (2) how to encourage institutions to consider diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of its endeavors.

The Committee circulated its suggested changes to the membership last fall. Only a handful of responses were received but the Committee is reviewing them and will submit a draft to the Executive Council in March. After their review, the draft will be circulated to the membership once again and will then be sent to the SACSCOC Board of Trustees in June for approval. The membership will then vote on the changes in December 2023 and they will become effective January 1, 2024.

BUDGET

SACSCOC had a clean audit once again—15 straight years! Thanks to Lisa Robinson and her staff for a job well done. We are in line with spending for the current year, and we

made budget for the SACSCOC Annual Meeting; however, due to losses in our Investment Account, we ended last year approximately \$500,000 in the red.

SMALL COLLEGE INITIATIVE

The 2023 Small College Initiative will focus on the use of data in making institutional decisions. The meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2023.

POLICIES

The SACSCOC Board of Trustees approved several policies at their December meeting. I have attached a summary of those changes to this email.

MEDIA CAMPAIGN

In light of the legislative action taken by the Florida legislature, we will develop a media campaign to encourage our members to retain their membership with SACSCOC as well as provide information for those institutions outside of our 'region' that might be interested in becoming members. If you have comments regarding the value of being a member of SACSCOC you'd like to be included, please share them with me.

SACSCOC STAFF TRANSITIONS

This past year saw many personnel changes at SACSCOC. As I shared at the Annual Meeting, Drs. Mary Kirk and Mike Hoefer are leaving in January and Drs. Larry Earvin and Linda Thomas-Glover are leaving in June. We have successfully hired their successors and they are Drs. Jay Marr, Matthew Melton, Patricia Parrish, and Kelli Randall. Please join me in wishing them much success in their future endeavors and in welcoming their successors to the staff.

We are bringing in the new staff at least 30 days before the others leave so that they have some overlap in getting acquainted with how we do things. This will also mean that some of you will have new SACSCOC staff members assigned to work with your institution. We will let you know as soon as possible to whom your institution has been assigned.

Additionally, Ms. Loraine Watts, Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Staff and Portia Carter, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs and Commission Support have resigned. Their successors will be hired this spring.

I mentioned in last year's letter that my Executive Assistant, Mrs. Rita Bell, was retiring at the end of January after 44 years of service to the Commission. Her successor is Ms. Carmell Brown (cbrown@sacscoc.org). Please copy her on any correspondence to me.

SPRING ON-SITE COMMITTEES

We are making plans to return to actual On-Site Committee visits for Spring 2023 for institutions involved in the reaffirmation process. We had almost 200 virtual visits last year that had to be followed up with an on-site visit. My sincere thanks to everyone who participated in those visits.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES

In order not to slow up the process anymore, please remember that ALL substantive changes are to be submitted to Dr. Kevin Sighter, Director of Substantive Change, and NOT to the President's Office. We are planning to have the Institutional Portal ready for online submissions of all documents, including the Compliance Certification, this spring. It's taken us a little longer to get the software written to accommodate this process, but it should be ready with March submissions.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I wish you a healthy and safe academic year.

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D., President
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033
(404) 679-4512
www.sacscoc.org