The following publicly available information is provided by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) concerning the accreditation of Saint Augustine’s University. Information presented below is in accordance with the SACSCOC disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Saint Augustine’s University. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to its public posting.

Action by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees took place on December 3, 2023.

What is the accreditation status of Saint Augustine’s University? On December 3, 2023, the Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges voted to remove Saint Augustine’s University from membership as an accredited institution; however, the institution remains accredited and on Probation during the 10-day time period after receipt of official notification in which it can submit a formal appeal. If the institution appeals the decision by submitting a formal request in accordance with SACSCOC policy, the institution will maintain accreditation on Probation pending the decision of the Appeals Committee.

Why did SACSCOC Board of Trustees vote to remove Saint Augustine’s University from membership as an accredited institution? The SACSCOC Board of Trustees voted to remove the institution from membership for failure to comply with Core Requirement 4.1 (Governing board characteristics), Core Requirement 13.1 (Financial resources), Core Requirement 13.2 (Financial documents), Standard 13.3 (Financial responsibility), Standard 13.4 (Control of finances), and Standard 13.6 (Federal and state responsibilities) of the Principles of Accreditation—the standards of the membership of SACSCOC, as well as failure to meet the provisions of Good Cause. These standard expects that the institution (1) has a governing board that (b) exercises fiduciary oversight of the institution; (2) has sound financial resources and a demonstrated, stable financial base to support the mission of the institution and the scope of its programs and services; (3) to 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 AICPA 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 (or 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; (4) to manage its financial resources in a responsible manner; (5) exercise appropriate control over all its financial resources; and (6) (a) is in compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV of the most recent Higher Education Act as amended and (b) audits financial aid programs as required by federal and state regulations. (To read full statements for the standard cited above, access the Principles of Accreditation: Foundation of Quality Enhancements.)

What will happen next? If the institution submits a formal appeal within 10 calendar days of receipt of its notification letter, then Saint Augustine’s University will remain an accredited institution on Probation until the Appeals Committee renders its decision. If the institution does not submit a formal appeal by that date, then the decision of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees to remove Saint Augustine’s University from membership becomes final and effective as of December 3, 2023. For additional information about removal from membership or about the appeals procedures, see the SACSCOC policies entitled “Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation and Removal from Membership” and the “Appeals Procedures of the College Delegate Assembly.” SACSCOC staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the Appeals Committee.

For additional information regarding the SACSCOC accreditation process, access the Principles of Accreditation: Foundation of Quality Enhancements.