Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)

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Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of SAINT AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY
Raleigh, North Carolina
Issued July 22, 2024, by SACSCOC

On July 21, 2024, SACSCOC and Saint Augustine's University (SAU) were notified of the decision of a panel of arbitrators. In a unanimous decision, the panel reversed the decision of the SACSCOC Appeals Committee of the College Delegate Assembly, which affirmed the decision of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees to terminate the accreditation of Saint Augustine's University. The panel found that SAU should have been permitted to present new and verifiable financial information as it related to Core Requirement 4.1 (Governing board characteristics), Core Requirement 13.1 (Financial resources), Core Requirement 13.2 (Financial documents), Standard 13.3 (Financial responsibilities), Standard 13.4 (Control of finances), and Standard 13.6 (Federal and state responsibilities). The Committees on Compliance and Reports (C&R) will review this matter at its meeting in December 2024. The Committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the Executive Council and the Board of Trustees for a final decision.

The decision of the arbitrators is binding; therefore, Saint Augustine's University will remain an accredited institution on Probation for Good Cause, pending the outcome of its next review by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees in December 2024. At that time, the institution will reach the maximum period (two years) for which an institution can remain on Probation for Good Cause before removal from membership.

On March 8, 2024, Saint Augustine's University notified the SACSCOC President of its intent to pursue arbitration of the Appeals Committee decision. SACSCOC acknowledged receipt of this notice, and the arbitration process commenced in accordance with the "Arbitration of Adverse Actions" policy (see www.sacscoc.org). The institution remained accredited on Probation during the arbitration process.

On February 27, 2024, a SACSCOC Appeals Committee of the College Delegate Assembly unanimously affirmed the December 3, 2023, decision of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees to terminate the accreditation of Saint Augustine's University, Raleigh, North Carolina. The Appeals Committee found the SACSCOC Board of Trustees' decision to be reasonable, not arbitrary, and based on the standards cited. "Specifically, the Appeals Committee found the Board's decision reflected a reasonable application of the Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement ("Principles"), which clearly included the use of

appropriate professional judgment of evaluators representing SACSCOC in the assessment of compliance with the following core requirements and standards of the Principles: 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)." Further, the Appeals Committee found that the institution failed to meet the provisions of Good Cause.

Pursuant to 34 CFR Section 602.20(e) and 20 U.S.C. 1099b(e), the institution agreed to submit any dispute involving the final denial, withdrawal, or termination of accreditation to initial arbitration prior to any other legal action. SACSCOC policy, "Arbitration of Adverse Actions," the institution's Chief Executive Officer may submit in writing to the President of SACSCOC by electronic transmission within ten (10) calendar days of the institution's receipt of the final written decision of the Appeals Committee.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges is the entity responsible for accrediting degree-granting institutions in the United States and international sites approved by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees that award associate, baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degrees. The SACSCOC Board of Trustees is the representative body of the 781- member College Delegate Assembly and is charged with conducting the accreditation process. To gain or maintain accreditation, an institution must comply with SACSCOC policies and with all standards contained in the Principles of Accreditation.