

**EXCERPT FROM THE PRELIMINARY REPORT
OF THE REAFFIRMATION COMMITTEE**

Statement Regarding the Report

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) is responsible for making the final determination on reaffirmation of accreditation based on the findings contained in this committee report, the institution's response to issues contained in the report, other assessments relevant to the review, and application of the Commission's policies and procedures. Final interpretation of the Principles of Accreditation and final action on the accreditation status of the institution rest with SACSCOC Board of Trustees.

Name of the Institution: **University of South Carolina - Columbia**

Date of the Review: **November 3-4, 2020**

SACSCOC Staff Member: **Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover**

Chair of the Committee: **Dr. Timothy S. Brophy**
Director, Institutional Assessment
and Professor, Music Education
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32606

10.4 Academic Governance

- 10.4 The institution (a) publishes and implements policies on the authority of faculty in academic and governance matters, (b) demonstrates that educational programs for which academic credit is awarded are approved consistent with institutional policy, and (c) places primary responsibility for the content, quality, and effectiveness of the curriculum with its faculty.
(Academic governance)

Compliance

The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee found support for the institution's case for compliance.

The institution's commitment to the role and authority of faculty in academic and governance matters is detailed in three formal, published institutional policies: the Columbia Faculty Manual, the regional Palmetto College campuses' Faculty Manual, and the University of South Carolina Policies and Procedures Manual. These manuals are available on the website and illustrate the core role of faculty. Amendments to the Columbia Faculty Manual are presented for consideration by the faculty and administration before presentation to the Board of Trustees.

The Faculty Senate is a representative body that includes 10% of the faculty of each college, school, or regional campus. The activities of the Faculty Senate are documented in meeting minutes on its website and illustrate an active, engaged academic body. Processes for amending the Regional Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Manual require approval of the faculty and administration prior to submission to the Board of Trustees.

The process for approval of a new policy is clearly outlined and includes a two-week reviewing period. Likewise, programs themselves go through layers of approvals at the department or division level, followed by successive tiers of review and approval. Following faculty governance approval, program proposals are forwarded for endorsement by the Provost, President and Board of Trustees.

Appropriate policies are in place related to quality and effectiveness of the curriculum, and the faculty's responsibility to ensure that these are maintained. ACAF 2.00 Creation and Revision of Academic Programs and ACAF 2.03 Creation and Revision of Academic Courses address course development both on the main and regional campuses as well as through distributed learning.