

**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

14.2 Substantive Change

- 14.2 The institution has a policy and procedure to ensure that all substantive changes are reported in accordance with SACSCOC's policy.
(*Substantive change*)

Compliance

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

The institution's policy ACAF 2.11 Substantive Change provides clear procedures and lines of authority for the notification and approval of substantive change. The procedures are also embedded within the various clauses, appendices, and procedures in the institution's policy ACAF 2.00, Creation and Revision of Academic Programs. The policies are disseminated publicly in the institution's Policies and Procedures manual via the Provost's website. All policies are reviewed and revised as necessary each quinquennium. The president holds policy enforcement authority.

The institution provided documentation of policy implementation. All substantive changes related to degree programs begin with a pre-authorization request for Provost review. While the image of the process in the narrative was too blurred to fully read, the additional evidence and narrative was sufficient to demonstrate that the institution implements its policy consistently. The institution provided documentation of seven examples of policy implementation.

The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee reviewed the institution's complete list of substantive changes since its last reaffirmation by accessing the institution's SACSCOC Document Directory website. The website provides documentation of the notification to SACSCOC and the SACSCOC response. The institution has had 18 substantive changes and they are all have been reported in accordance with SACSCOC's policy.