

**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

6.5 Faculty Development

- 6.5 The institution provides ongoing professional development opportunities for faculty members as teachers, scholars, and practitioners, consistent with the institutional mission. (*Faculty development*)

Compliance

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

The institution rests its faculty development in standards for faculty assessment, measured through unit criteria for tenure and for faculty promotion. Sabbatical leave processes are clearly outlined, allowing extended professional development time. Professional leave without pay is also allowable, on a case-by-case basis.

The institution's Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) supports appropriate programming for faculty across the ranks, as demonstrated in the narrative. Its success is measured by the increasing number of faculty participating in said programming. The Center is adequately staffed, and its services range from one-on-one meetings to group presentations. Certificate of Completion programs allow faculty to complete a series of programs through CTE. Initiatives cover the traditional and emerging areas of instructional inquiry, including instructional design, flipped classroom development, integrative learning, and pedagogy. Orientation for new faculty along with targeted programs throughout the year ensure professional development activities are readily available. The Division of Information Technology supports faculty development through training, seminars, and workshops to ensure that Blackboard and other platforms are accessible to faculty. Support is available to faculty both at the main and Palmetto College campuses.

Support for faculty scholarship ranges from internal competitive grant processes and matches for external grants to ASPIRE program funding, allowing innovation to take place in concert with colleagues. The Office of the Vice President for Research provides an array of programs supporting mentorship for minority students, support for sponsored awards management, and compliance.

The institution has support in place for those seeking to advance as academy leaders through a variety of programs, primarily housed in the Office of the Provost. This signifies strong institutional support for these programs.