



June 25, 2015

Mr. Donald Miles
Executive Director of Institutional Assessment
and Compliance
University of South Carolina - Columbia
1710 College Street
Columbia, SC 29208

Dear Mr. Miles:

Thank you for your letter of March 31, 2015, providing SACSCOC with additional information regarding your intention to offer 50% or more of the credits for degree programs at a previously unapproved off-campus instructional site. The address of the site is:

USC Union Laurens Site
507 North Harper Street
Suite L
Laurens, SC 29360

In a letter dated August 11, 2014, SACSCOC requested the following:

Please identify the programs for which students may earn 50% or more of the credits.

Please provide information concerning courses to be taught in 2014.

Please provide information concerning the instructional methodologies used at the site.

Please provide information concerning who provides oversight for the site.

Please provide additional explanatory information documenting qualifications for the following faculty members: Thomas Bishop, Stephen Buchanan, Ter Buritica De Mayon, Michael Greer, Neill Hance, Jessica Holland-Davis, Roy Redman, Charles Sublett, William Taylor, and Susan Corley.

Discipline-specific learning resources to support the courses offered at the site should be listed.

Please provide specific information concerning the student support services which are available to students at the Laurens site along with information concerning how these students may access the services.

Please provide evidence of adequate physical resources to accommodate learning resource provisions for students at the Laurens site.



Page 2
Mr. Miles
June 25, 2015

Please provide evidence that physical facilities at the site are adequate to support the offerings at the site.

Two degree programs are offered at the site: the Associate in Arts and the Associate in Science. Courses taught during 2014 at the site all appear to be undergraduate courses in chemistry, English, film, management, political science, psychology, leadership, sociology, Spanish, and theatre.

The three classrooms at the site have adequate furniture and equipment to facilitate teaching for adult learners. Classroom equipment allows for the instructor to project PowerPoint presentations, access the internet, and display the information on a large screen. Two of the three classrooms are equipped with video-streaming technology which can be used to deliver courses between the Union and Lauren sites. Transmissions use live, two-way video and audio. Cameras are located in two classrooms at both locations. The third classroom at the Laurens location has 13 desktop computers with the capacity for 17, so that it can function as a computer lab when not in use for a class.

Administrative oversight at the campus is provided by a full-time Center Director. The Director reports directly to the University of South Carolina - Columbia (USC) Union Dean and is a member of the Dean's Council. Two part-time administrative specialists and student workers provide additional support for the site. One of the administrative specialists also serves as a community liaison.

All of the faculty members for whom additional qualifications were requested, with the exception of Neill Hance, are no longer teaching at the site. Mr. Hance is no longer teaching speech, but rather teaching Theatre 200, Understanding and Appreciation of Theatre. Mr. Hance, teaching part-time, has a graduate degree (MFA) in Theatre. All of the other faculty members teaching in the fall 2014, four full-time and six part-time, appear to be qualified to teach the coursework assigned.

A wide range of electronic databases are available to provide discipline-specific general education resources to students at the site. These databases are available through the Columbia Campus, PASCAL, and by the South Carolina State Library (DISCUS). Examples include EBSCO Host Academic Collection, JSTOR, and Academic Search Premier.



Page 3
Mr. Miles
June 25, 2015

A number of student support services are provided at the site. These include Academic Success services, student activities, student government, safety and security, disability services, and health care services.

As noted above, the Laurens site provides three adequately equipped classrooms for the 40 to 50 students served at the location. The classrooms are equipped with adequate technology, including the capacity for streaming video and audio. A reception area and lobby allow students to gather. Office space is provided for the Center Director and support staff. Computer resources and wireless internet access are available at the site.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Union Laurens off-campus instructional site. It was the decision of the Board to approve the site and include it in the scope of the current accreditation.

The approval of an off-campus instructional site is effective for a maximum of five years. The site will be reviewed, which may include a site visit, as part of the institution's fifth-year or decennial review.

The Commission wishes you success in this endeavor.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/LCS:iy

cc: Dr. Harris Pastides, President
Dr. Barry D. Goldstein