



January 12, 2018

Dr. Chris Maggio
President
Northwestern State University of Louisiana
310 Sam Sibley Drive
Suite 223
Natchitoches, LA 71497

Dear Dr. Maggio:

The following action regarding your institution was taken by the Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) during its meeting held on December 3, 2017:

The SACSCOC Board of Trustees reaffirmed accreditation with a request for a Monitoring Report due **September 7, 2018**. Your institution's next reaffirmation will take place in 2027 unless otherwise notified. The Monitoring Report should address the visiting committee's recommendation applicable to the following referenced standard of the *Principles of Accreditation*:

CS 3.3.1.1 (Institutional effectiveness: educational programs), Recommendation #2
This standard expects an institution to identify expected outcomes, assess the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provide evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results in its educational programs, including student learning outcomes.

The institution provided evidence that it identifies student learning outcomes for each academic program and assesses the extent to which those outcomes are achieved; however, the institution did not provide sufficient evidence of improvement based on the analysis of the results. The majority of academic programs reported that they have met thresholds, will continue to monitor, or describe changes that will be made in the future.

While the College Delegate Assembly adopted revised *Principles of Accreditation* in December, the Board's actions were determined based on the previous edition as noted above. Your institution may respond to **either** the corresponding revised standard(s) **or** the old standard(s) as cited. Please work with your assigned SACSCOC staff member regarding your choice for responding to the 2012 *Principles* or the 2018 *Principles*. Once selected, your choice applies to **all** the responses requested above. ***Institutions are not expected to respond to those standards that were deleted in the 2018 Principles, although they may have been cited above.***

Also, please submit to your Commission staff member, preferably by email, a **one-page** executive summary of your institution's Quality Enhancement Plan. The summary is due **February 15, 2018**, and should include on the same page the following information: (1) the title of your Quality Enhancement Plan, (2) your institution's name, and (3) the name, title, and email address of an individual who can be contacted regarding its development or implementation. This summary will be posted to SACSCOC's website as a resource for other institutions undergoing the reaffirmation process.



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All institutions are requested to submit an "Impact Report of the Quality Enhancement Plan on Student Learning" as part of their "Fifth-Year Interim Report" due five years before their next reaffirmation review. Institutions will be notified 11 months in advance by the President of the Commission regarding its specific due date. Directions for completion of the report will be included with the notification.

Guidelines for the monitoring report are enclosed. Because it is essential that institutions follow these guidelines, **please make certain that those responsible for preparing the report receive the document. If there are any questions about the format, contact the Commission staff member assigned to your institution.** When submitting your report, please send **five copies** to your SACSCOC staff member.

Please note that Federal regulations and SACSCOC's policy stipulate that an institution must demonstrate compliance with all requirements and standards of the *Principles of Accreditation* within two years following SACSCOC's Board of Trustees' initial action on the institution. At the end of that two-year period, if the institution does not comply with all standards and requirements of the *Principles*, representatives from the institution may be required to appear before the Board, or one of its standing committees, to answer questions as to why the institution should not be removed from membership. If the Board of Trustees determines Good Cause at that time and the institution has not been on Probation for both years during the two-year monitoring period, the Board may extend the period for coming into compliance for a minimum of six months and a maximum of two years and must place the institution on Probation. An institution may be on Probation for a maximum of two years. If the Board does not determine Good Cause or if the institution does not come into compliance within the specified period of time while on Probation, the institution must be removed from membership. (See enclosed SACSCOC's policy "Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership.")

If you have questions, please contact the SACSCOC staff member assigned to your institution.

Sincerely,

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

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW:sf

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Crystal A. Baird, Vice President, SACSCOC