



June 29, 2023

Dr. Heather Wilson
President
The University of Texas at El Paso
500 West University Avenue
El Paso, TX 79968-0500

Dear Dr. Wilson:

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 June 15, 2023:

The SACSCOC Board of Trustees reviewed the institution's Referral Report, following the submission of its Fifth-Year Interim Report in June 2022, and recommended that the institution be placed on Warning for six (6) months for failure to comply with Core Requirement 6.1 (*Full-time faculty*), Core Requirement 9.2 (*Program length*), Standard 5.4 (*Qualified administrative/academic officers*), Standard 6.2.b (*Program faculty*), and Standard 6.2.c (*Program coordination*) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. A Special Committee was not authorized to visit the institution.

The institution is requested to submit a Monitoring Report due **September 8, 2023**, addressing the visiting committee's recommendations applicable to the following referenced standards of the *Principles of Accreditation*:

Core Requirement 6.1 (*Full-time faculty*)

This standard expects an institution to employ an adequate number of full-time faculty members to support the mission and goals of the institution.

Minimal data was provided about credit hours, number of students, number of full and part-time faculty. It is unclear how the institution determines that it has an adequate number of full-time faculty to support the mission and goals of the institution.

Core Requirement 9.2 (*Program length*)

The institution offers one or more degree programs based on at least 60 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the associate level; at least 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the baccalaureate level; or at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level. The institution provides an explanation of equivalencies when using units other than semester credit hours. The institution provides an appropriate justification for all degree programs and combined degree programs that include fewer than the required number of semester credit hours or its equivalent unit.



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Although the institution asserted that few students have actually graduated with both a baccalaureate and a post-baccalaureate degree earning less than a combined total of 150 hours, evidence was not provided to demonstrate that the safeguards for admission to accelerated programs were applied to students admitted to the programs.

Standard 5.4 (Qualified administrative/academic officers)

This standard expects an institution to employ administrative and academic officers with appropriate experience and qualifications to lead the institution. Further, this standard expects an institution to evaluate those administrative and academic officers regularly.

The institution provided justification and narrative regarding the Dean of the College of Health Sciences; however, an updated job description reflective of the qualifications of the incumbent was not provided.

Standard 6.2.b (Program faculty)

For each of its educational programs, this standard expects an institution to employ a sufficient number of full-time faculty members to ensure curriculum and program quality, integrity, and review.

The institution provided a description of the procedures by which faculty exercise responsibility for each of its educational programs but did not provide evidence that it has an adequate number of full-time faculty to fulfill these responsibilities.

Standard 6.2.c (Program coordination)

For each of its educational programs, this standard expects an institution to assign appropriate responsibility for program coordination.

The institution provided qualifications of only those coordinators identified as examples by the Committee on Fifth-Year Interim Reports. Inadequate information was provided to demonstrate that the institution assigns appropriate responsibility for program coordination for each of its educational programs.

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 this document. If there are any questions about the format, contact the SACSCOC staff member assigned to your institution.** Please submit your report via the Institutional Portal by the deadline date.

Since your institution has been placed (OR continued) on Warning, the Commission directs your attention to the enclosed policy entitled "*Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership.*"



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Please note that Federal regulations and SACSCOC's policy stipulate that an institution must demonstrate compliance with all the standards and requirements of the *Principles of Accreditation (Principles)* within two years following SACSCOC Board of Trustees' initial action on the institution. At the end of that two-year period, if the institution does not comply with all the standards and requirements of the *Principles*, representatives from the institution may be required to appear before SACSCOC Board of Trustees, 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, 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 for Good Cause. If the Board of Trustees does not determine Good Cause, removal from accreditation is mandatory. (See enclosed SACSCOC policy, '*Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership*,' which includes the provision for a determination of Good Cause.)

Further, the Federal regulations may impose restrictions on the institution's submissions for a substantive change. Please review the materials on Substantive Change Restriction in the *Substantive Change Policy and Procedures* (<https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2019/08/SubstantiveChange.pdf>).

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the process, please contact your SACSCOC staff member.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Belle S. Wheelan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW:cn

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Stephanie L. Kirschmann, Vice President, SACSCOC
Mr. Kevin Eltife, Board Chair, The University of Texas at El Paso
Dr. James B. Milliken, Chancellor, University Texas System