

**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

12.3

Student Rights

- 12.3 The institution publishes clear and appropriate statement(s) of student rights and responsibilities and disseminates the statement(s) to the campus community.
(*Student rights*)

Non-Compliance

The institution's response is in violation of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) policy, "Reports Submitted for SACSCOC Review," by including live links in its response and electronic documentation that is not consistently bookmarked, indexed, and searchable.

The institution provides numerous examples of promulgated policies that clearly provide students with their rights and responsibilities. The Carolinian Creed is an aspirational values document developed by the institution's students, faculty, and staff and is a national model for other institutions. Various institutional departments provide clear promulgated student rights and responsibilities documents in writing, setting forth an understanding of expectations. The institution makes these policies widely available and follows sound educational practice, in compliance with federal and state guidelines and laws, along with best practices in higher education.

Staff and faculty communicate the rights and responsibilities policy information in multiple ways including student orientation, websites, peer leader training, course syllabi, student meetings, signed agreements, and one-on-one meetings. The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee reviewed the policies and documentation and determined they are easily accessible and not contradictory. The policies provide a clear purpose, scope of policy, responsible officer, and definitions when needed. Additionally, the institution provided documentation about the dissemination of the student rights and responsibilities at the four regional campuses.

The institution, however, did not provide any examples of implementation or enforcement. Examples of implementation or enforcement can be redacted if appropriate.