

**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

14.1

Publication of Accreditation Status

- 14.1 The institution (a) accurately represents its accreditation status and publishes the name, address, and telephone number of SACSCOC in accordance with SACSCOC's requirements and federal policy; and (b) ensures all its branch campuses include the name of that institution and make it clear that their accreditation depends on the continued accreditation of the parent campus.

(Publication of accreditation status) [Off-Site/On-Site Review]

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 provided documentation for its flagship campus in Columbia in the form of live links (not screen shots or PDFs) to web pages that identify its accreditation status and publish the name, address, and telephone number of SACSCOC in accordance with SACSCOC's requirements and federal policy. The accreditation statement for the Columbia campus reads as follows:

The University of South Carolina Columbia is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of the University of South Carolina Columbia.

The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee also reviewed live links to web pages (not screen shots or PDFs) for its Palmetto branch campuses (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, and Union).

The accreditation statement for the Palmetto branches reads as follows:

The regional Palmetto College campuses (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, Union) are branch campuses of the University of South Carolina Columbia. The University of South Carolina Columbia is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of the University of South Carolina Columbia.

The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee is unable to determine compliance because it was unable to locate documentation (a) that its accreditation representation is consistent across multiple publications, and (b) while the statement is clear that the Palmetto College campuses are branch campuses, it is not clear that the branch campuses' accreditation is dependent on the accreditation of the institution.