

**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

14.4

Representation to Other Agencies

- 14.4 The institution (a) represents itself accurately to all U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting agencies with which it holds accreditation and (b) informs those agencies of any change of accreditation status, including the imposition of public sanctions. (See SACSCOC policy “Accrediting Decisions of Other Agencies.”)
(Representation to other agencies) [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 a list of 14 United States Department of Education (USDOE) recognized agencies that accredit the institution’s programs (misabeled as Institutional Accreditation Agencies, when they are Programmatic Accreditation Agencies). The narrative presents the institution’s mission, discussions of the student body and the impact the institution has on its region, and documentation of external program reviews, substantive changes, program self-studies and letters from some of its programmatic accreditors. The institution further states that it is in good standing with its programmatic accreditation agencies and has had no negative actions since its last reaffirmation.

This standard expects the institution to provide documentation that it represents itself identically to all its USDOE recognized accreditors. The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee was unable to determine compliance because it could not locate this documentation for all its USDOE recognized accreditors.

The institution may also want to check its entry in the Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs. The list of programmatic accreditors in the database does not match the list provided in the narrative.