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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 18, 2023

Dr. Michael Amiridis
President
University of South Carolina - Columbia
206 Osborne Administration Building
Columbia, SC 29208

Dear Dr. Amiridis:

Thank you for submitting the following substantive change:

Substantive change:
OCIS Approval Limited Review
Gray Collegiate Academy
3833 Leaphart Road
Columbia, SC 29169
Submission date:
5/2/2023
Intended Implementation date:
1/1/2024
Case ID:
SC021862

The University of South Carolina (USC) Columbia is requesting approval to offer 50% or more of the Associate of Arts (AA) and the Associate of Science (AS) degree programs at the Gray Collegiate Academy (high school) off-campus instructional site (OCIS) located in West Columbia.

Additional information was requested on August 3, 2023, from the institution; the institution's response has been added to the originally submitted material.

This is a one-time change for a site that will be ongoing. All courses scheduled for the 2023-2024 Year at Gray Collegiate Academy either meet specific requirements of the Carolina Core (the University of South Carolina's general education core for all baccalaureate degrees) or meet specific requirements for USC Union's associate degrees. Instructional methods employed for these courses consist of traditional in-class, on-site, and online instruction. The expected enrollment for the Gray Collegiate Academy off-campus site is expected to reach between 300-350 students.

The primary mission of the University of South Carolina is the education of the state's diverse citizens through teaching, research, creative activity, and service. The University of South Carolina Union, a regional campus of the University of South Carolina, has as its mission to provide higher education and intellectual leadership to residents in its area. To better serve



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constituents in nearby Lexington County, USC Union seeks the establishment of an increase in credit hours at Gray Collegiate Academy (high school).

Population growth and demographic changes within the target population have led to a demonstrated demand for additional courses at the site. USC Union also provides general education and upper-division coursework applicable to baccalaureate degree programs offered through colleges and universities nationwide. In addition to academic coursework, the mission of the campus includes non-credit courses, seminars, and workshops made available to the community for cultural enrichment and professional development.

Lexington County is largely uneducated. Lexington County's overall population grew by 13% from 2010 to 2019. During this same period, the population of persons under 18 years of age grew by 13.8%. This growing population underscores the need for the site in Lexington County and is the primary reason for the request to offer more than 50% of courses required for an associate degree at Gray Collegiate Academy, which the site will reach in spring 2024. Course offerings at the Gray Collegiate Academy site were determined between the Academic and Student Affairs officials of USC Union and administrators from Gray Collegiate Academy.

Admissions requirements for acceptance into the Gray Collegiate Academy dual enrollment program include a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher (4.0 scale) and the recommendation of the high school principal or their designee, following the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education's Statewide Higher Education Policy for Delivery and Transferability of Dual Enrollment. High School students must submit a completed application for admission and high school transcripts. Other options are available for those students not meeting the requirements. The schedule represents a pathway to complete an associate degree, where much of the general education requirements are necessary for the eventual completion of a bachelor's degree at the University of South Carolina.

The University provided course descriptions and a projected schedule of course offerings. USC provided the qualifications for ten full-time and twenty part-time faculty who will be responsible for teaching the courses at the site. Keep in mind that the ultimate determination of faculty qualifications is the responsibility of the peer review team who will assess the program as part of the institution's next SACSCOC reaffirmation review. Faculty teaching at Gray Collegiate Academy do not teach overloads. The Director of Faculty, Curricula, and Courses visits classrooms during the semester and stays in constant contact with faculty to ensure their teaching needs are met.

Library services for USC Union are provided by Union County Carnegie Library. The physical library is about an hour from Gray Collegiate Academy. Students have access to the USC Union digital databases. They can request materials and place physical materials on hold at Union County Carnegie Library. Access to the library's holdings is easily accessible off-site. The library's electronic card catalog is available. Students are made aware of the library and learning



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and information resources available to them during several orientation sessions (in presentation and distributed digital information), course syllabi, and individual course orientation.

USC Union provides numerous student support services which will be extended to students choosing to enroll at Gray Collegiate Academy including tutoring services, careers, internships, and employment services.

Gray Collegiate Academy has adequate physical resources to accommodate enrollments with room for growth. The district has allocated enough classrooms to accommodate the USC Union courses. Office space is provided for faculty. Each classroom is equipped with state-of-the-art technology to facilitate instruction with minimal to no additional equipment requirements from USC Union. The Gray Collegiate Academy location will not have a substantive impact on existing programs and services.

The financial sources for expanding from 25%-49% to more than 50% of the programs are provided directly from tuition funding. The university provided a five-year budget plan. The projected revenue is based on the current High School Lottery Tuition Assistance Program (HSLTAP) rate and anticipated student enrollment. Tuition revenues are expected to increase as more students take advantage of the opportunity to complete more than 50% of the program at Gray Collegiate Academy. Financial resources appear to be adequate to support the site with revenues exceeding expenses.

Student learning outcomes (SLO) assessment is a university priority and responsibility. To maintain compliance with SACSCOC's Teaching and Learning standards, the University of South Carolina requires that every degree program draft student learning outcomes and establish ways to evaluate students' performance on the outcomes.

Resources for the AA and AS programs at the Grey Collegiate Academy location are already in place. Enrollment projections are very conservative based on anticipated demand. The University does not need to hire new faculty to support this location. Existing faculty will be able to support the needs of the site. Should enrollment numbers decline the University can scale back on the number of sections that are offered at the location.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Gray Collegiate Academy off-campus instructional site (OCIS). It was the decision of the Board to approve the site and include it in the scope of accreditation.

Enclosed is an invoice for \$500 to help defray the cost of reviewing the prospectus.

Should you need assistance, please contact Dr. Kelli V. Randall at 404-994-6545 or via email at krandall@sacscoc.org.



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Please include the Case ID number above in all submissions or correspondence about this substantive change.

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/DDG:lp

Enclosure (invoice with liaison's copy only)

cc: Mr. Donald Miles, Executive Director Institutional Research, Assessment, and Analytics,
University of South Carolina - Columbia
Dr. Kelli V. Randall, Vice President, SACSCOC