



SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS  
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

July 5, 2017

Dr. Gregory Postel  
Interim President  
University of Louisville  
2301 South Third Street  
Grawemeyer Hall  
Louisville, KY 40292

Dear Dr. Postel:

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges' policy, "Standing Rules: SACSCOC Board of Trustees, Executive Council, and the College Delegate Assembly," (available at [www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)) stipulates that the Commission give appropriate consideration to significant accreditation-related unsolicited information revealed about an institution between periods of scheduled review. This policy provides that an institution be afforded the opportunity to respond to concerns raised by the review of the unsolicited information.

Thank you for providing the Commission with a copy of your email announcement to the university community and the Forensic Audit Report compiled by Alvarez & Marsal (dated June 8, 2017). After reviewing the material submitted, Commission staff determined that there appears to be sufficient factual information supporting significant noncompliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*. In accordance with SACSCOC's policy on procedures dealing with the receipt of unsolicited information as outlined in "Unsolicited Information," I am authorizing an expansion of the scope of the Special Committee scheduled to visit your institution on September 19-21, 2017, to include review of the Forensic Audit Report.

In addition, a recent article by the Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting, "Oversight on Conflicts of Interest," cited by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* included copies of completed conflict of interest statements that have raised additional questions about University of Louisville's ongoing compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*. In particular, the report raises questions about the institution's implementation and enforcement of its conflict of interest policy.

In light of these circumstances, and in accordance with the SACSCOC's policy and procedures, I am requesting that the institution prepare a report that explains and documents the extent of its compliance with the following standard of the *Principles of Accreditation*:

- Comprehensive Standard 3.2.3. (Conflict of Interest)

In documenting the institution's ongoing compliance, along with any other items supporting the institution's case for compliance, please include a complete roster of all current members of the UofL Board of Trustees and the UofL Foundation Board of Directors along with a biographical sketch or resume for each, and copies of all conflict of interest statements, signed and dated, submitted by Board members. Please note any overlap in the membership for the two Boards on the rosters. [Although the rosters have been submitted previously, their inclusion with the other items of information outlined above will be important to supporting a thorough review.] In accordance with SACSCOC's policy on procedures dealing with the receipt of unsolicited information as outlined in "Unsolicited Information," I am authorizing an expansion of the scope of the Special Committee scheduled to visit your institution on September 19-21, 2017, to include review of Board conflict of interest.



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From a review of the institution's website, the Commission staff also noted that a significant number of senior administrative staff, many of whom are responsible for leading the institution, providing stability, implementing and enforcing changes currently being made, and documenting compliance with accreditation standards are serving as interim. It appears that the interim appointments at the University of Louisville include the President, Provost, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operations Officer, Associate Vice President for Audit Services and Institutional Compliance, and the Associate Vice President for Finance/Controller.

In light of these circumstances, and in accordance with the SACSCOC's policy and procedures, I also am requesting that the institution prepare a report that explains and documents the extent of its compliance with the following standard of the *Principles of Accreditation*:

- Comprehensive Standard 3.2.8. (Qualified administrative/academic officers)

In documenting the institution's ongoing compliance, along with any other items supporting the institution's case for compliance, please include current organizational charts, names of the individual holding the position, notation of permanent or interim status, and resumes for the President, all individuals reporting directly to the President, all individuals reporting directly to the Executive Vice President and University Provost, and all individuals reporting directly to the Chief Administrative Officer. In accordance with SACSCOC's policy on procedures dealing with the receipt of unsolicited information as outlined in "Unsolicited Information," I am authorizing an expansion of the scope of the Special Committee scheduled to visit your institution on September 19-21, 2017, to include review of the qualifications and stability of the institution's administrative and academic officers.

**Please submit to my office TWO electronic copies of the institution's response to this letter regarding CS 3.2.3. (Conflict of interest) and CS 3.2.8. (Qualified administrative/academic officers) no later than Monday, July 31, 2017.**

In summary, the Special Committee is charged to conduct an on-site review in order to determine your institution's compliance with the *Principles* and to forward its findings to the SACSCOC Board of Trustees to enable a decision regarding your institution's accreditation status. To that end, the Committee will review the following specific standards and may extend its initial focus if any evidence of additional accreditation-related compliance concerns comes to its attention. This list includes the standards identified by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees in December 2016 (letter dated January 11, 2017), the standards cited in my letter authorizing the expansion of the scope of the Special Committee (letter dated May 25, 2017), and the additional standards cited in this letter.

- Core Requirement 2.2 (Governing Board)
- Comprehensive Standard 3.2.1. (CEO evaluation/selection)
- Comprehensive Standard 3.2.3. (Conflict of interest)
- Comprehensive Standard 3.2.4. (External influence)
- Comprehensive Standard 3.2.5. (Board dismissal)
- Comprehensive Standard 3.2.8. (Qualified administrative/academic officers)
- Comprehensive Standard 3.2.13. (Institution-related entities)
- Comprehensive Standard 3.10.1. (Financial Stability)
- Comprehensive Standard 3.10.3. (Control of finances)



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The original unsolicited information and documentation, my notification letter of January 27, 2017, your response to the request for information, my letter of notification of May 25, 2017, the Report of the Special Committee, the response of the institution to the Committee's report, and this letter and your forthcoming response to this letter will be forwarded to a Committee on Compliance and Reports, a standing committee of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, for formal review in December 2017. You will be informed of the decision of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees following its meeting.

Because the institution has submitted previous responses on paper, I am requesting that the institution submit electronic copies of all documentation submitted by the institution in response to my January 27, 2017 letter, as well as all materials submitted by Dr. Connie Shumake in her email of June 9, 2017, to Dr. Patricia Donat. Dr. Donat will review the files to verify that they match your paper and email submissions. Once verified, those materials can be prepared for submission to the members of the Special Committee. **Please provide this historical electronic copy to Dr. Donat no later than Monday, July 31, 2017.**

If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Dr. Donat, at 404-994-6558.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.  
President

BSW/PLD:ecr

cc: Dr. Patricia L. Donat, SACSCOC Vice President  
Mr. J. David Grissom, Chair pro tem, UofL Board of Trustees  
Ms. Connie Shumake, Institutional Accreditation Liaison

