

## MEMORANDUM

TO: SACSCOC Membership

FROM: Belle S. Wheelan, President

DATE: April 13, 2020

SUBJECT: Update of SACSCOC Matters Related to Coronavirus Outbreak

Greetings from SACSCOC. I know these are challenging times for your institution. I'm writing with a brief update on three SACSCOC matters related to the coronavirus outbreak and your institution.

### **Temporary Emergency Relocation of Instruction**

Thank you for your quick response to my request for notification of relocation of instruction to online/distance learning. We've responded by email to about 800 relocations. If you haven't yet submitted notification, please do so now through the SACSCOC institutional portal.

Notifications were accepted for a 120-day period beginning on your first day of relocation. It's now clear that 120 days is insufficient for some institutions planning to relocate summer and possibly fall term instruction to distance learning. Relocation for more than 120 days requires approval by the Executive Council of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees and the Executive Council has approved extending the approval period to December 31, 2020.

**Therefore, all institutions submitting notification will be automatically granted relocation approval through December 31, 2020. No additional action is required by you.** This will be added to your institution's record and will be publicly available on the SACSCOC website as required by the U.S. Department of Education. I will make further adjustments if needed and will keep you apprised. You do not need to notify the Commission again when instruction returns to its previous locations.

### **Waiver of Distance Learning Approval**

If your institution has not been approved to offer 50% or more of a program by distance learning, I asked you to send me a request for a temporary waiver. If you haven't yet submitted a waiver request, please email it to me as soon as possible. Waivers were granted for 120 days. This, too, now appears insufficient for some institutions.

**All institutions granted a waiver of distance learning approval will be automatically extended through December 31, 2020. No additional action is required by you.** This information will be added to your institution's record and will be publicly available on the SACSCOC website.

## **Academic Calendar Changes**

In my March 13, 2020, email to you, I alerted you to some things to keep in mind if you opt to change your institution's academic calendar and asked that you keep me informed. Thank you for doing that; if you haven't and need to, email me when you can. We have opted not to respond to calendar changes until and unless I determine individual responses are warranted. I'll provide further guidance as necessary and appreciate you keeping me posted.

I continue to send my best wishes to you, your faculty and staff, and your students to stay safe and in good health. Please let me know if I or any SACSCOC staff can be of assistance.