



## **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 - Aiken**

**Date of the Review:**                **November 5-6, 2020**

**SACSCOC Staff Member:**        **Dr. Denise Y. Young**

**Chair of the Committee:**            **Dr. William R. Fannin - CHAIR**  
**Professor of Management**  
**The University of Texas Permian Basin**  
**Odessa, TX**

## Section 13: Financial and Physical Resources

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13.2 The member institution provides the following financial statements:

- (a) an institutional audit (or Standard Review Report issued in accordance with *Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services* issued by the AICPA for those institutions audited as part of a system-wide or statewide audit) for the most recent fiscal year prepared by an independent certified public accountant and/or an appropriate governmental auditing agency employing the appropriate audit (or Standard Review Report) guide.
- (b) a statement of financial position of unrestricted net assets, exclusive of plant assets and plant-related debt, which represents the change in unrestricted net assets attributable to operations for the most recent year.
- (c) an annual budget that is preceded by sound planning, is subject to sound fiscal procedures, and is approved by the governing board.

*(Financial documents)* [CR]

### Compliance

The institution's financial statements are regularly sent to the institution's Board of Trustees and were audited by Elliott Davis, LLC an independent member firm of Moore North America, which is itself a regional member of Moore Global Network Limited (MGNL). The engagement is performed following auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. For the year 2020, the institution received a clean, unmodified opinion from Elliott Davis, LLC, the independent certified public accounting firm.

Per *Government Auditing Standards*, the audit firm also issued a report dated October 15, 2020, on its consideration of the University's internal control over financial reporting and on their tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters.

Aiken County Commission for Higher Education (the Commission) is a separately chartered legal entity which does not meet the criteria established by GASB Statement No. 61 – Financial Reporting Entity: Omnibus an Amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 34, to be treated as a component unit of the Campus.

Budget planning is the responsibility of the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; this plan is shared with the Chancellor and the Chancellor's Cabinet. The Cabinet articulates the strategic priorities, and a proposed budget is built. Budget forums are held with the campus before the budget is refined for submission. The proposed budget is sent to the system President and the system's Board of Trustees along with requests, when necessary, for tuition and other fee increases. The next fiscal year's budget is finished and passed by the System Board of Trustees when the appropriations bill is passed by the State Legislature in June.