



## **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 6: Faculty

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- 6.5 The institution provides ongoing professional development opportunities for faculty members as teachers, scholars, and practitioners, consistent with the institutional mission. *(Faculty development)*

### Compliance

The institution provides ongoing professional development opportunities for faculty members, consistent with its mission that emphasizes the commitment to transformative teaching and excellence in research and service.

The institution provides moderate funding for each full-time faculty member to cover travel costs associated with professional development activities. This fund has been supplemented by the institution's Partnership Board and by the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, as the budget allows. The System provides moderate funding for research awards that are made on a competitive basis. The institution has also established a research incentive fund to contribute additional funds to the research awards.

The Tuition Assistance Program provides funding for one three-credit-hour course per academic term from any institution within the System. Sabbatical Leave is available to all tenured associate professors or tenured professors with six or more years of full-time faculty status at the university. Thirteen sabbaticals have been awarded over the past ten years. Both policies are outlined in the Faculty Manual.

The Center for Teaching Excellence provides individual consultations, videotaping, technical assistance, print and electronic resources, and workshops on effective teaching strategies. The Office of Distance Learning provides course design for online and blended learning and offers a Remote Teaching Certificate course. Human Resources offers multiple workshops throughout the year that are open to faculty and staff.