



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 7: Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

- 7.1 **The institution engages in ongoing, comprehensive, and integrated research-based planning and evaluation processes that (a) focus on institutional quality and effectiveness and (b) incorporate a systematic review of institutional goals and outcomes consistent with its mission.**
(Institutional planning) [CR]

Compliance

The institution described the last two strategic planning processes, which are conducted every five years, and the current strategic plan was included as evidence. The current institutional strategic plan was initiated following a review of the institution's mission statement. Strategic plan development was overseen by a Steering Committee, which included faculty and campus constituents.

Objectives of the strategic plan were aligned to key performance indicators and budgetary areas, and metrics are tracked annually. Progress reports were created and are reported to the Governor's Office as State Accountability Reports. Several recent year reports through 2018-19 were provided as evidence.

Programs provide discipline-specific outcomes for student learning and provide information on how the assessment results have been used to make program-level changes. These reports are reviewed annually by the Academic Council Academic Council, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research and Compliance.

Individual units submit planning and assessment reports as a part of the institutional effectiveness process each year, which include budget plans or requests. Annual unit plans establish goals and expected outcomes tied to the institutional mission. Academic unit program reviews are conducted on a regular basis as well.