



SACSCOC

Accreditation Update

This is the second biweekly report to inform the University Community about the activities related to the preparation of the Second Monitoring Report and the Special Committee visit for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

This update focuses on one of three sections of the report—the Governance Section. The Financial and Academic sections will be presented in subsequent updates.

The Board of Visitors' Ad Hoc Monitoring Committee was provided updates and a copy of the draft report on June 10, 2015 and June 30, 2015. Norfolk State University was also informed that the assigned SACSCOC Vice President retired as of June 30, 2015. The assignment of a new Vice President is expected shortly.

Status Update

CR = Core Requirement

CS = Comprehensive Standard

Governance Sections

CR 2.2 (Governing board) Recommendation 1

Concern

The Board of Visitors' Bylaws appear to allow board removal without cause, and by a minority of the members. Specifically, the Bylaws did not specify the number of members.

Action Required

Norfolk State University needed to amend the Board Bylaws to: (1) clearly denote the total number of NSU Board members; (2) clarify that Board members can only be dismissed by the Governor and for cause; (3) clarify Board removal sections from board office as Rector, Vice Rector or Secretary, removal provisions.

Status

Board Bylaws were amended on May 8, 2015. A narrative with supporting documentation has been drafted and presented to address the concern. Supporting documentation includes evidence of Board actions to demonstrate that the Board is not controlled by a minority of its members.

CS 3.2.5 (Board dismissal) Recommendation 3

Concern

The Board of Visitors' Bylaws were unclear about the dismissal from the Board versus dismissal or removal from a Board office such as Rector, Vice Rector or Board Secretary.

Action required

Norfolk State University needed to amend the Board Bylaws to: (1) make clear that members, method and terms of appointment are set by statute; (2) clarify that Board members can only be dismissed by the Governor and for cause; and (3) clarify that removal of a Board member from an elected board office as Rector, Vice Rector or Secretary, requires an affirmative vote of seven voting members.

Status

Board Bylaws were amended on May 8, 2015 and a draft narrative with supporting documentation has been reviewed by the external consultant.

CS 3.2.6 (Board/administrative distinction) Recommendation 4

Concern

Board Bylaws permit the Board to hire personnel but does not specify exactly what personnel can be hired and how the hires intersect with the administration's hiring and oversight responsibilities.

Action required

Norfolk State University needed to amend the Board Bylaws to specify the types of employees that can be hired and further clarify the distinction between the board's hiring role and the administration's hiring and oversight responsibilities.

Status

The Board Bylaws were amended to specify the employees by type allowed to be hired by the University and clarify the distinction between the board's hiring authority and that of the administration. A draft narrative with supporting documentation has been reviewed by the external consultant. Based upon the consultant's comments, this section will require an additional amendment to the Board Bylaws, § 7.03 Additional Support, at the August 2015 board meeting to further define the type of personnel that can be hired by the Board and the purposes for which they can be hired.

Overall section status

As noted, all of the governance sections have been reviewed by the external consultant and the review comments incorporated in a second draft which has been reviewed again by the consultant. The updated draft of these sections was submitted to the SACSCOC assigned VP for a courtesy review in June. (Note: courtesy review comments were not received prior to the VP's retirement and it is uncertain if the new VP will be willing to conduct a courtesy review).

Team Members

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