

**EXCERPT FROM THE 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 - Columbia**

Date of the Review: **November 3-4, 2020**

SACSCOC Staff Member: **Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover**

Chair of the Committee: **Dr. Timothy S. Brophy**
Director, Institutional Assessment
and Professor, Music Education
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32606

6.2.a

Faculty Qualifications

6.2 For each of its educational programs, the institution

6.2.a Justifies and documents the qualifications of its faculty members.
(*Faculty qualifications*)

Non-Compliance

The institution's response is in violation of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) policy, "Reports Submitted for SACSCOC Review," by including live links in its response and electronic documentation that is not consistently bookmarked, indexed, and searchable nor presented according to the "General Instructions for Completing the Faculty Roster Form" provided on the SACSCOC website.

The institution's policies related to hiring emphasize the importance of the qualifications of its faculty. Policies and procedures for documenting the instructor of record are clear, and the policy on credential verification for instructors of record was updated in 2018. Procedures for alternative credentialing for those who do not meet minimum standards are in line with those of peer institutions.

The institution has provided documentation on the qualifications of its faculty members. Adequate justification is provided in most cases for individuals whose expertise lies outside of the academy and who are bringing particular skills to the classroom. Primary gaps in the Faculty Roster stem from part-time appointments for which there is no academic credentialing nor justification listed. See the "Request for Justifying and Documenting Qualifications of Faculty" for information regarding faculty members requiring additional justification.