

**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.b Program Faculty

- 6.2.b Employs a sufficient number of full-time faculty members to ensure curriculum and program quality, integrity, and review.
(*Program faculty*) [Off-Site/On-Site Review]

Compliance

The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee found support for the institution's case for compliance.

The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee reviewed the institution's evidence that they employ a sufficient number of full-time faculty per academic program as it is defined by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) as "persons identified by the institution as such and typically those whose initial assignments are made for the purpose of conducting instruction, research, or public service as a principal activity (or activities)." Academic program coordinators and institutional administrators use the Faculty Distribution Report (Below 50% Consecutive Semesters) to monitor faculty numbers (by program and degree level) as an early alert to identify programs that are starting to fall below 50% (College of Education; School of Medicine) for two most recent consecutive semesters. The threshold of at least 50% was met for 314 of the 319 programs that the institution offered in fall 2019 and spring 2020. Although the Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee could not ascertain a rationale for use of a 50% standard, there appear to be an adequate number of full-time faculty for all instructional areas. The Faculty Manuals define the normal work schedule of full-time faculty as twelve hours or its equivalent. Each college/school must submit an annual Blueprint, which provides information on its strategies and performance in meeting the institution's academic dashboard targets during the current academic year along with the unit's plans for meeting the next year's dashboard targets. Overload and full-time instructional percentage results are indicative that the institution is supporting an adequate instructional capacity for their programs was not provided.