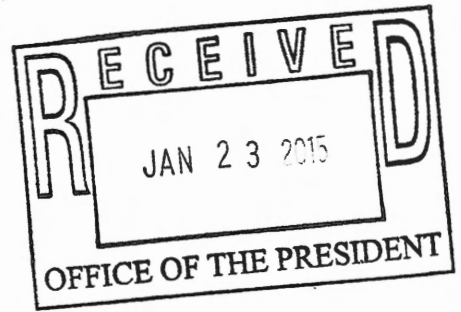




January 13, 2015



Dr. Michael Rao  
President  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
P. O. Box 842512  
Richmond, VA 23284-2512

Dear Dr. Rao:

The following action regarding your institution was taken by the Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges during its meeting held on December 7, 2014:

The SACSCOC Board of Trustees reaffirmed accreditation with a request for a Monitoring Report due **September 8, 2015**. Your institution's next reaffirmation will take place in 2024 unless otherwise notified. The Monitoring Report should address the visiting committee's recommendation applicable to the following referenced standard of the *Principles of Accreditation*:

**CS 3.3.1.2 (Institutional effectiveness: administrative support services),  
Recommendation 2**

*This standard expects an institution to identify expected outcomes, assess the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provide evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results in its administrative support services.*

The institution provided the results of assessments done in a number of areas and often described the actions proposed / taken based on assessment results. However, the institution did not provide individual assessment reports for Academic and External Affairs and did not list specific expected outcomes for any of the administrative support units. The implementation of improvements based upon the assessment of results was not consistently addressed. The information provided does not support a mature institutional effectiveness process for VCU's administrative support units.

Please submit to your Commission staff member, preferably by email, a **one-page** executive summary of your institution's Quality Enhancement Plan. The summary is due **February 16, 2015**, and should include on the same page the following information: (1) the title of your Quality Enhancement Plan, (2) your institution's name, and (3) the name, title, and email address of an individual who can be contacted regarding its development or implementation. This summary will be posted to the Commission's Web site as a resource for other institutions undergoing the reaffirmation process.

All institutions are requested to submit an "Impact Report of the Quality Enhancement Plan on Student Learning" as part of their "Fifth-Year Interim Report" due five years before their next reaffirmation review. Institutions will be notified 11 months in advance by the President of the Commission regarding its specific due date. Directions for completion of the report will be included with the notification.



Dr. Michael Rao  
January 13, 2015  
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Guidelines for the monitoring report are enclosed. Because it is essential that institutions follow these guidelines, **please make certain that those responsible for preparing the report receive the document. If there are any questions about the format, contact the Commission staff member assigned to your institution.** When submitting your report, please send **four copies** to your Commission staff member.

Please note that Federal regulations and Commission policy stipulate that an institution must demonstrate compliance with all requirements and standards of the *Principles of Accreditation* within two years following SACSCOC Board of Trustees' initial action on the institution. At the end of that two-year period, if the institution does not comply with all standards and requirements of the *Principles*, representatives from the institution may be required to appear before the Board, or one of its standing committees, to answer questions as to why the institution should not be removed from membership. If the Board of Trustees determines good cause at that time and the institution has not been on Probation for both years during the two-year monitoring period, the Board may extend the period for coming into compliance for a minimum of six months and a maximum of two years and must place the institution on Probation. An institution may be on Probation for a maximum of two years. If the Board does not determine good cause or if the institution does not come into compliance within two years while on Probation, the institution must be removed from membership. (See enclosed Commission policy "*Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership.*")

We appreciate your continued support of the activities of SACS Commission on Colleges. If you have questions, please contact the Commission staff member assigned to your institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.  
President

BSW:cp

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Michael T. Hoefler