

SUBJECT: SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE

PURPOSE: To define a policy and procedure that ensures compliance with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges' (SACSCOC's) Comprehensive Standards related to substantive change and the SACSCOC's *Policy for Substantive Change for Accredited Institutions of the Commission on Colleges*.

GENERAL POLICY

In order to ensure compliance with the SACSCOC's Comprehensive Standards related to substantive change and the *Policy for Substantive Change for Accredited Institutions of the Commission on Colleges*, it is the responsibility of the university department initiating a proposed change to notify the LSUA SACSCOC Liaison* of the newly proposed initiative that may result in the need for a SACSCOC Substantive Change Request. It then becomes the responsibility of the LSUA SACSCOC Liaison to notify SACSCOC of any Substantive Changes in accordance with the SACSCOC's *Policy for Substantive Change* and, when required, seek approval prior to the initiation of changes.

A substantive change is a significant modification or expansion in the nature and scope of an accredited institution. The SACSCOC's *Policy for Substantive Change* identifies the types of substantive change and the procedures for addressing them appropriately.

Substantive changes include but are not limited to the following:

- Adding significantly different programs to the academic curriculum.
- Offering a majority of the coursework needed to complete a degree, certificate, or diploma on-line.
- Offering coursework at a more advanced level than that for which an institution is currently approved.
- Establishing an additional location geographically apart from the main campus at which the University offers at least 50% of an educational program.
- Establishing a branch campus.
- Merging or consolidating with other institutions.
- Changing the mission statement or governance structure of the institution.

- Entering a collaborative academic arrangement such as a dual degree program or joint degree program with another institution.
- Closing a program, off-campus site, or branch campus.
- Acquiring another institution or a program or location of another institution.
- Entering into a contract by which an entity not eligible for Title IV funding offers 25% or more of one of more of the University's programs.

Additional changes may be identified by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees.

The Chancellor's Council is responsible for the development, dissemination, implementation, monitoring, and regular evaluation of procedures to ensure compliance with this Policy. The LSUA SACSCOC Liaison is responsible for monitoring University activities and notifying SACSCOC in advance of substantive changes and program developments in accordance with the SACSCOC Policy. Compliance with this policy and associated procedures is mandatory.

* The LSUA SACSCOC Liaison is the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs or his/her designee.

APPROVED: _____
Paul D. Coreil
Interim Chancellor

06/14/13
Date