

TITLE: Substantive Change Policy

EFFECTIVE: 03/15/2012

LAST REVIEW:

LAST REVISION:

Policy No: 9.001.2

Introduction

A substantive change as identified by The Southern Association for Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) is a significant modification or expansion of the nature and scope of an accredited institution.

Context

Accreditation or the reaffirmation of accreditation is granted to cover an institution as it exists at the time of evaluation. SACSCOC requires that substantive changes (defined in the Substantive Change Policy Statement) be presented to the Commission for prior review and approval in order for them to be included within the scope of an institution's accreditation. Substantive change may be as a result of additional location, relocation, Contractual Agreement, Branch Campus, Reclassification of a location, branch Campus, and/or an institution, etc.

Key Questions

The requests for approval of substantive change must contain sufficient evidence to assure peer reviewers of the institution's continuing compliance with all relevant Commission Standards

Under federal regulations, substantive change includes:

- Any change in the established mission or objectives of the institution
- Any change in legal status, form of control, or ownership of the institution
- The addition of courses or programs that represent a significant departure, either in content or method of delivery, from those that were offered when the institution was last evaluated
- The addition of courses or programs of study at a degree or credential level different from that which is included in the institution's current accreditation or reaffirmation
- A change from clock hours to credit hours
- A substantial increase in the number of clock or credit hours awarded for successful completion of a program
- The establishment of an additional location geographically apart from the main campus at which the institution offers at least 50% of an educational program
- The establishment of a branch campus
- Closing a program, off-campus site, branch campus or institution
- Entering into a collaborative academic arrangement that includes only the initiation of a dual or joint academic program with another institution
- Acquiring another institution or a program or location of another institution
- Adding a permanent location at a site where the institution is conducting a teach-out program for a closed institution
- Entering into a contract by which an entity not eligible for Title IV funding offers 25% or more of one or more of the accredited institution's programs

Policy Statement

SOWELA Technical Community College (SOWELA) will be proactive in ensuring all incidences of substantive changes be reported in a timely manner as required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The complete Substantive Change Policy Statement can be found online at <http://sowela.s21.gcnet.co/wp-content/uploads/9.001.1-substantive-change-policy-opa.pdf>

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a framework that ensures compliance with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on College's Substantive Change Policy Statement. As a condition of continued accreditation by the SACSCOC, substantive changes to the institutional structure and to course delivery, curricula, physical location, or level require prior review and approval. It is the responsibility of SOWELA to monitor proposed academic and non-academic changes and take appropriate action in reporting substantive changes to the SACSCOC.

Definition(s)

Substantive change is defined as *a significant modification or expansion of the nature and scope of an accredited institution.*

General Policy

SOWELA Technical Community College has developed and implemented the following system to ensure that the institution maintains compliance with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on College's Substantive Change Policy Statement:

1. The following executive administrative officers serve on the institution's Substantive Change Committee: Accreditation Liaison (Chairperson), College Chancellor, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Vice Chancellor for Finance, Chief Information Resource and Technology Officer, Executive Director of Workforce Solutions, Executive Director of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Executive Director of Planning and Analysis, , Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Management, and Executive Director of Institutional Advancement, Alumni Affairs and Community Engagement.
2. It is the responsibility of the Chairperson to proactively monitor all proposed college changes and bring them before the Substantive Change Committee. Changes are reported to the Chairperson and the Substantive Change Committee. The Substantive Change Committee discusses possible changes planned for the College that might be substantive in nature and examines the institution's current offerings and operations to make certain the College is in compliance with the Commission's Substantive Change policy.
3. Proposed changes are reviewed by the committee to determine if they are substantive. If any of the changes are substantive, then the committee also determines the specific procedure for reporting the change to the Commission.
4. The Chancellor is responsible for notifying the Commission of any substantive changes.
5. If the Commission requires the institution to write a prospectus or prepare additional documentation beyond the notification letter, the Accreditation Liaison, with assistance from the Substantive Change Committee, is responsible for preparing the documentation and for organizing any onsite substantive change committee visits. Additional committees can also be organized to assist in these tasks.
6. SOWELA Technical Community College's Substantive Change policy is published on the institution's website. In addition, the Substantive Change Committee shares the policy and/or any changes to the policy as needed with all of the College's administrators during Executive Team and strategic planning meetings.

Source of Policy: Institutional Effectiveness

Responsible: Administrator: EDP&A

LCTCS Policy Reference: N/A

LCTCS Guideline Reference: N/A

Related Policy: N/A

Approved by: _____

Chancellor

Date: 2-15-18