

## MEMORANDUM

TO: SACSCOC Membership

FROM: Belle S. Wheelan, President

DATE: March 31, 2020

SUBJECT: Flexibilities Offered to SACSCOC Member Institutions During the Period of COVID-19 Interruptions Policy Statement

Greetings. I hope this note finds you all settled into the new normal created by the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm looking forward to some sense of normalcy soon as I'm sure you are as well.

I just got off a call with the Executive Council of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees and wanted to share some information with you.

1. As a result of all of the changes that we've made in rescheduling visits this semester, the Summer SACSCOC Board of Trustees meeting will now occur August 31 – September 3, 2020. While we are indeed hopeful that all participants are able to meet in person, we will have virtual meeting capabilities for those who cannot attend.
2. The Council has approved a policy and procedures (<https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2020/03/SACSCOC-Flexibilities-Policy-regarding-COVID-19.pdf>) that codify many of the exceptions the U.S. Department of Education authorized accreditation agencies to carry out, permitting certain flexibilities to member institutions as a result of COVID-19. These include:
  - a. Temporary relocations of instruction including relocation to distance learning.
  - b. Virtual Site visits, along with on-campus visits.
  - c. Extension of accreditation for some members of the Class of 2020 for whom visits were not able to occur this spring.
  - d. Rescheduling of Off-Site Committee meetings (currently rescheduled for May 26-29, 2020).
  - e. Issuance of Pass-Fail or non-pass grades
3. Given the chaos this semester, those institutions that are scheduled to submit their Compliance Certifications this fall will, obviously, not have assessment data for the spring 2020 semester. ***Just put a note to that effect into your document.***

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thanks and STAY SAFE.