



**SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES**

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July 7, 2003

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr.
Chancellor
Troy State University
Adams Administration Building
Troy, AL 36082

Dear Jack:

Thank you for your recent communications regarding substantive changes that are occurring at the institution. In your letter of June 16, 2003, you notified the Commission of your intent to offer two approved degree programs at two sites. Those programs and sites are:

- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science in Vietnam
- Bachelor of Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Science in Management, and Master of Science in Criminal Justice to be offered in Atlanta, GA.

The Atlanta site is approved; we shall note these changes in your files and include them within the scope of accreditation previously granted. The Vietnamese site is not approved and the proposed program should be included in the prospectus you are preparing for our review and approval. We accept this notification of your intent to offer the program at the location. **What are the implementation dates for the four programs?**

In your letter of June 10, 2003, you notified the Commission of your intent to merge your three separately accredited campuses into one university under a single accreditation to be effective August 1, 2005. You requested formal guidance as to the exact steps required to accomplish this change within SACS requirements. Here is the agenda under our requirements:

1. The CEO's of the merging institutions must provide written notification of the impending change to the COC Executive Director six months in advance of the designated date for final approval of the merger by the institution's governing board.
2. Upon notification, the COC will request a prospectus describing how each institution plans to continue to comply with the *Principles* while implementing the change.



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3. The prospectus will be reviewed by the COC. If the prospectus is accepted, the Commission will approve the merger of the institutions involved pending final approval by the institution's governing board of the merger. It shall also authorize the appointment of a Substantive Change Committee to visit the new institution to determine ongoing compliance with the *Principles*. The institutions involved in the merger shall be considered one accredited institution after the Commission has favorably acted on the prospectus and after the newly-formed institution has received final authority from its governing board.

4. The newly-merged institution shall be required to complete a reaffirmation cycle and achieve reaffirmation of accreditation within five years following the Commission's action to continue accreditation. If a 2009 reaffirmation visit would be the choice of the institution, we shall work to schedule such a visit at that time. The institution shall then maintain the normal ten-year reaffirmation of accreditation cycle.

We appreciate your efforts to keep the Commission informed; I also appreciate your seeking advice well in advance of implementation. We wish you much success in the months ahead as you work to merge the institutions.

You also notified the Commission regarding the delivery of the Master of Science in Counseling and Psychology and the Bachelor of Science in Sports and Fitness Management degree programs in Augusta, GA, beginning in January 2004. You indicated that the prospectuses for these programs are forthcoming to the Commission, and we look forward to receiving and reviewing them.

I hope your summer is going well and that you are anticipating some rest and relaxation.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JR", is written over the typed name.

James T. Rogers
Executive Director
Commission on Colleges

JTR/RER:rlb

