



FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 25, 2012

Dr. James H. Ammons
President
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
400 Lee Hall
1601 S. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32307-3100

Dear Dr. Ammons:

Thank you for the periodic updates we had received at SACSCOC regarding the hazing issues and their aftermath. As you are well aware, the tragic loss of life associated with hazing has brought a great deal of attention to the issue of campus safety and security. Continuing unsolicited reports received by our offices and in national media point to the possibility of financial fraud. Other reports allege that campus policies may have been violated in terms of student (and nonstudent) eligibility to participate in the band program. Because of the severity of the problem, the unsolicited information we have received, and the passage of several months since our last update from your institution, it is necessary for us to seek additional information regarding the potential for non-compliance with the following standards in the *Principles of Accreditation*:

- CS 3.4.5 The institution publishes academic policies that adhere to principles of good educational practice. These policies are disseminated to students, faculty, and other interested parties through publications that accurately represent the programs and services of the institution. (Academic policies)
- CS 3.9.1 The institution publishes a clear and appropriate statement of student rights and responsibilities and disseminates the statement to the campus community. (Student rights)
- CS 3.10.3 The institution exercises appropriate control over all its financial resources. (Control of finances)
- CS 3.11.2 The institution takes reasonable steps to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all members of the campus community. (Institutional environment)

Please provide a report on these four standards by July 26, 2012. Specifically address the following concerns:

CS 3.4.5 and CS 3.9.1

Please provide documentation of your policies governing student and non-student eligibility to participate in university-sanctioned activities (clubs, teams, cheerleading, student trips,



Dr. James H. Ammons
June 25, 2012
Page Two

service projects, and the like). Include policies governing band participation. You do not need to include policies governing athletic participation in NCAA-related events. Address past, present, and planned future enforcement of these policies, especially concerning the band. If new policies have been instituted in the past two years, be explicit as to changes that have occurred.

CS 3.10.3

Please summarize the current state of your investigation into the alleged issues related to financial fraud (some of these were announced last November), and actions taken to correct the problems uncovered in the Internal Auditor function.

CS 3.11.2

Provide policies in place to protect student safety when participating in university-sanctioned activities. Additionally, provide details on changes instituted or contemplated as a result of the recent hazing-related tragedy (clarify whether implemented or planned).

The Policy Statement, "Standing Rules: SACSCOC Board of Trustees, Executive Council, and the College Delegate Assembly," says this concerning unsolicited information:

The Commission shall give appropriate consideration to significant accreditation-related information revealed about an institution between periods of scheduled review. Following review of the information by staff, the institution will be given an adequate period of time to respond to the information. If, after reviewing the response, Commission staff determines that the information is of factual substance and is accreditation related, the information and documentation, along with the institution's response, will be forwarded to the Committees on Compliance and Reports for formal review or the President of SACSCOC can authorize a Special Committee to review the institution."

We appreciate your support of the Commission on Colleges and its efforts on behalf of its member institutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MSJ", is written over a printed name.

Michael S. Johnson
Vice President

MSJ:cp

cc: Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.