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The Principles of Accreditation:

Foundations for Quality Enhancement

2018 Edition

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Philosophy of Accreditation

Self-

Section 5: Administration and Organization

The institution's chief executive officer has ultimate responsibility for priorities and initiatives to advance its board-approved mission, goals, and priorities. The chief executive officer oversees an organizational structure that includes key academic and administrative officers and decision makers with credentials appropriate to their respective responsibilities.

1. **The institution has a chief executive officer whose primary responsibility is to the institution.**
   (Chief executive officer) **[CR]**

2. The chief executive officer has ultimate responsibility for, and exercises appropriate control over the following:

   a. the institution's educational, administrative, and fiscal programs and services.
      (CEO control)

   b. the institution's intercollegiate athletics program
      (Control of intercollegiate athletics)

   c. the institution's fund-raising activities.
      (Control of fund-raising activities)

3. For any entity organized separately from the institution and formed primarily for the purpose of supporting the institution or its programs:
   (a) The legal authority and operating control of the institution is clearly defined with respect to that entity.
   (b) The relationship of that entity to the institution and the extent of any liability arising from that relationship are clearly described in a formal, written manner.
   (c) The institution demonstrates that (1) the chief executive officer controls any fund-raising activities of that entity or (2) the fund-raising activities of that entity are defined in a formal, written manner which assures that those activities further the mission of the institution.
   (Institution-related entities)

4. The institution employs and regularly evaluates administrative and academic officers with appropriate experience and qualifications to lead the institution.
   (Qualified administrative/academic officers)

5. The institution publishes and implements policies regarding the appointment, employment, and regular evaluation of non-faculty personnel.
   (Personnel appointment and evaluation)

Section 6: Faculty

Qualified, effective faculty members are essential to carry out the mission of the institution and to ensure

Section 7: Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

Effective institutions demonstrate a commitment to the principles of continuous improvement. These

3. **The institution requires the successful completion of a general education component at the undergraduate level that:**
   (a) **is based on a coherent rationale.**
   (b) **is a substantial component of each undergraduate degree program. For degree completion in associate programs, the component constitutes a minimum of 15 semester hours or the equivalent; for baccalaureate programs, a minimum of 30 semester hours or the equivalent.**
   (c) **ensures breadth of knowledge. These credit hours include at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural science/mathematics. These courses do not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession.**

   (General education requirements **[CR]**

4. At least 25 percent of the credit hours required for an undergraduate degree are earned through instruction offe1(n)-10(un14(r)]TJ 0)3(e)4(e)nA rcesn un2.9(e)3.9([)14-6(awt 26(a)4(r

1. The institution publishes, implements, and disseminates

8.

Section 14: Transparency and Institutional Representation

An institution is responsible for representing accurately to the public its status and relationship with SACSCOC; reporting accurately to the public its status with state of the federal government if receiving funding from either or both; maintaining openness in all accreditation-related activities; ensuring the