

Commission on Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
<http://www.sacscoc.org>

Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
FUNDACION UNIVERSIDAD DE LAS AMERICAS-PUEBLA
(UNIVERSIDAD DE LAS AMERICAS-PUEBLA)
Puebla, Mexico

Issued December 20, 2007, by the Commission on Colleges

The following publicly available information is provided by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Inc., concerning the accreditation of Fundacion Universidad de las Americas-Puebla (also, Universidad de las Americas-Puebla). Information presented below is in accord with the Commission's disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Fundacion Universidad de las Americas-Puebla. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

The Commission on Colleges' action on Fundacion Universidad de las Americas-Puebla took place on December 10, 2007, and the institution's next review is December 2008.

What is the accreditation status of Fundacion Universidad de las Americas-Puebla? Fundacion Universidad de las Americas-Puebla is accredited by the Commission on Colleges; however, the institution has been continued in accreditation for good cause and placed on Probation for twelve months after the Commission's review of the institution's Second Monitoring Report and financial statements following reaffirmation in 2005. The Commission's accreditation includes all components of the institution—all programs, branch campuses, off-campus sites, and distance learning programs as reported to the Commission; thus, the Probation status applies to the entire institution. Prior to the institution's next review by the Commission in December 2008, a Special Committee will conduct an on-site evaluation of its compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*—the accreditation standards of the Commission.

What does it mean to be continued in accreditation for good cause and placed on Probation? When an institution has exhausted its two-year monitoring period for complying with the *Principles of Accreditation* of the Commission on Colleges, instead of removing the institution's accreditation, the Commission can extend accreditation for good cause and place the institution on Probation if (1) the institution has demonstrated significant recent accomplishments in addressing non-compliance, and (2) the institution has provided evidence which makes it reasonable for the Commission to assume it will remedy all deficiencies within the twelve-month period, and (3) the institution has provided assurance to the Commission that it is not aware of any other reasons, other than those identified by the Commission, why the institution cannot be continued for good cause. An institution must be placed on Probation when it is continued in membership for good cause beyond the maximum two-year monitoring period. The maximum consecutive time that an institution may be on Probation is two years. The institution will conclude a 12-month period on Probation in December 2008. For additional information about sanctions, see page two of the Commission's policy entitled "Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership" (<http://www.sacscoc.org/policies.asp>).

Why was Fundacion Universidad de las Americas-Puebla continued in accreditation for good cause and placed on Probation? Fundacion Universidad de las Americas-Puebla was continued in accreditation for good cause and placed on Probation because the Commission determined that it met the provisions for good cause but it failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 2.2 (Governing Board), Core Requirement 2.11.1 (Financial Resources), Comprehensive Standard 3.2.4 (External Influence), Comprehensive Standard 3.2.10 (Administrative Staff Evaluations), Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1 (Institutional Effectiveness), Comprehensive Standard 3.4.1 (Academic Program Approval), Comprehensive Standard 3.5.1 (College-Level Competencies), Comprehensive Standard 3.7.1 (Faculty Competence), Comprehensive Standard 3.10.1 (Financial Stability), and Federal Requirement 4.7 (Title IV Program Responsibilities) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. These standards expect an accredited institution to provide evidence that it (1) has an appropriate governing board not controlled by a minority of the board members; (2) has a sound financial base and financial stability to support the mission of the institution and the scope of its programs; (3) has a governing board free from external influence; (4) evaluates the effectiveness of its administrators; (5) identifies expected outcomes for programs and services; (6) demonstrates that educational programs are approved by faculty; (7) identifies college-level competencies within the general education core; (8) employs competent faculty; (9) has a history of financial stability; and (10) is in compliance with program responsibilities under Title IV. (To read the full statements for the standards cited above, access the *Principles of Accreditation* at <http://www.sacscoc.org/principles.asp>.) In addition, and in accordance with Commission policy, the institution was placed on Probation because it had reached the end of its maximum two-year monitoring period without demonstrating compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*.

What will happen in December 2008? The Commission will again consider the accreditation status of Fundacion Universidad de las Americas-Puebla following review of a Third Monitoring Report and financial statements submitted by the institution addressing the areas cited for non-compliance, and the report of a Special Committee that will visit the institution in fall 2008 and will review the areas cited above as well as alleged non-compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation* related to complaints filed against the institution. The Commission will have the following options: (1) remove Probation without an additional monitoring report; (2) continue accreditation for good cause and continue Probation, request an additional report, and authorize a Special Committee; or (3) remove the institution's accreditation. For additional information, access <http://www.sacscoc.org/policies.asp>. Commission staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the Commission in December 2008.

For additional information regarding the Commission's accreditation process, access the *Principles of Accreditation* (<http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/principles.asp>).