

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

**Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of**  
**TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**  
**Houston, Texas**  
**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 Texas Southern University. Information presented below is in accord with the Commission's disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Texas Southern University. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

The Commission on Colleges' action on Texas Southern University took place on December 10, 2007, and the institution's next review is December 2008.

**What is the accreditation status of Texas Southern University?** Texas Southern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges; however, the institution has been placed on Probation for twelve months following review of the institution's special report on finances. 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 Probation mean?** Probation is the Commission's most serious sanction, short of loss of membership, and can be imposed on an institution for failure to correct deficiencies of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements or the Comprehensive Standards of the *Principles of Accreditation* of the Commission, failure to make timely and significant progress toward correcting the deficiencies, or failure to comply with Commission policies and procedures. The imposition of Probation is an indication of the gravity of non-compliance with the *Principles*. Probation may be imposed upon initial institutional review, depending on the judgment of the Commission of the seriousness of the non-compliance or in the case of repeated violations recognized by the Commission over a period of time. The maximum consecutive time that an institution may be on Probation is two years. Texas Southern University will conclude a twelve-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 Texas Southern University placed on Probation?** Texas Southern University was placed on Probation because the Commission determined that it failed to demonstrate compliance with Principle 1.1 (Integrity); Core Requirement 2.11.1 (Financial Resources), Comprehensive Standard 3.10.1 (Financial Stability), Comprehensive Standard 3.10.4 (Control of Finances), Comprehensive Standard 3.10.5 (Control of Sponsored Research/External Funds), 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) operates with integrity; (2) has a sound financial base and financial stability to support the mission of the institution and the scope of its programs; (3) exercises control over all its finances; (4) maintains financial control over externally funded or sponsored research and programs; and (4) is in compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV. (To read the full statements for all the standards cited above, access the *Principles of Accreditation* at <http://www.sacscoc.org/principles.asp>).

**What will happen in December 2008?** The Commission will again consider the accreditation status of Texas Southern University following review of audits, a First Monitoring Report 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. The Commission will have the following options: (1) remove Probation with or without an additional monitoring report; (2) continue the institution on Probation, request an additional monitoring report, and authorize a Special Committee; or (3) remove the institution's accreditation. 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/principles.asp>).