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SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

August 18, 2016

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

AUG 25 2016

ACTION INFORMATION

Connie	Dr. Pinto
Shumaker	Trisha Smith
8-25-1	KMS
	Jake Beane
	Leslie Strohm

Dr. Neville G. Pinto
Acting President
University of Louisville
2301 South Third Street
Grawemeyer Hall
Louisville, KY 40292

Dear Dr. Pinto:

Thank you for your response to my letter of June 28, 2016, requesting an explanation and documentation regarding your institution's ongoing compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*. This request was made following an article in *Inside Higher Ed* as well as a press release by the Governor's office (including links to Executive Order 2016-338, Executive Order 2016-339, and a letter from President Ramsey to Governor Bevin dated June 16, 2016) regarding the abolishment and reorganization of the Board of Trustees of the University of Louisville, the establishment of an Interim Board of Trustees, and the President's notice of an intent to submit his resignation/retirement upon the "legal restructure of the Board of Trustees."

After reviewing the material submitted, we determined that there is evidence of significant accreditation-related issues based on factual information. Therefore, the original unsolicited information and documentation, my notification letter of June 28, 2016, your response to the request for information, and this letter will be forwarded to the Committees on Compliance and Reports, standing committees of the SACSCOC's Board of Trustees, for formal review during its meetings on December 2-4, 2016. The reasons for the review are the following:

1. Through the apparent involvement of the Governor in an alleged negotiation of the resignation of a university president, without the engagement of the Board, it appears there was interference with the Board's authority to make decisions regarding the identification, evaluation, and retention of an institutional chief executive officer. [Letter from President Ramsey to Governor Bevin, dated June 16, 2016, summarizes conversation.] The Board that accepted the President's resignation was the Board established by Executive Order 2016-338 following the Governor's meeting with President Ramsey.
2. Through the Governor's Executive Order 2016-338 abolishing the University of Louisville's Board of Trustees and establishing a new Board structure for which recommendations for all appointments were submitted to the same Governor for action, the potential for undue political influence in institutional governance appears to be present.
3. Through the Governor's removal of Board members without due process in accordance with KRS 63.080(2) and 164.821, it appears that established procedures were not followed for the dismissal of Board members.

From our analysis, it appears that the institution is out of compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.2.1. (CEO evaluation/selection), Comprehensive Standard 3.2.4. (External influence), and Comprehensive Standard 3.2.5. (Board dismissal) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. If you have additional information that addresses the issues identified above, it must be submitted by September 16, 2016, in order to include it with the other materials being forwarded. If the institution wants to submit additional materials from the scheduled October 4, 2016, hearing, those specific items and the institution's response to those items



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must be received by October 17, 2016. Materials will be reviewed only as they directly relate to the institution's compliance with the standards. You will be informed of the decision of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees within two weeks following the Board's meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Dr. Patricia Donat, your SACSCOC staff representative, at 404.994.6558.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/PLD:ecr

cc: Dr. Patricia L. Donat, SACSCOC Vice President
Dr. Larry Benz, University of Louisville Board Chair
Ms. Connie Shumake, Institutional Accreditation Liaison