



SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES
1866 Southern Lane • Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097
Telephone 404/679-4500 Fax 404/679-4558

January 5, 2001

Dr. R. Gerald Turner
President
Southern Methodist University
Perkins Administration Bldg.
Room 225
Dallas, TX 75275

Dear Dr. Turner:

The following action regarding your institution was taken at the December 2000 meeting of the Commission on Colleges:

The Commission reaffirmed accreditation with a request for a follow-up report due September 3, 2001, addressing the visiting committee's recommendations cited in the following sections of the *Criteria*:

**Section 3.1 (Planning and Evaluation: Educational programs),
Recommendations 1, 2 and 3**

Provide documentation of the approval and implementation in the planning and evaluation process of the new Mission Statement of the institution.

Provide documentation that the Academic Program Reviews described in the institutional response are continuing and provide specific examples that the results are being used for continuous improvement.

**Section 5.3 (Information Technology Resources and Systems),
Recommendation 16**

Provide documentation giving specific examples that the strategic plan for technology to be developed by March 1, 2001, has been developed and is being implemented.

**Section 6.5 (Externally Funded Grants and Contracts), Recommendations
23 and 24**

Provide documentation that the policy concerning the faculty member's division of obligations between research and other academic activities has been approved and implemented.

Since the above action indicates a need for a future report, guidelines are provided which we request that institutions follow when developing responses. When submitting reports, please send five copies to the staff member assigned to your institution.

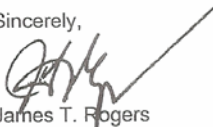


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Please note that Federal regulations and Commission policy stipulate that an institution must remedy deficiencies within two years following the Commission's initial action on the institution. At the end of that two-year period, if the institution is not in compliance with the *Criteria*, it will be required to show cause why it should not be removed from membership. If the Commission determines good cause at that time, the Commission may extend the period for coming into compliance for a minimum of six months and a maximum of two years and must place the institution on Probation. If the Commission does not determine good cause, the institution must be removed from membership. (See enclosed Commission policies "Follow-Up Reports, Sanctions, and Removal From Membership.")

We appreciate your continued support of the activities of the Commission on Colleges. If you have questions, please contact the staff member assigned to your institution.

Sincerely,



James T. Rogers
Executive Director
Commission on Colleges

JTR:cp

Enclosures

cc: Dr. John O. Dwyer