

October 11, 2006

MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Advisory Committee on Academic Programs

From: Dr. R. Lynn Kelley, Acting Director of Academic Affairs and Licensing

Consideration of Proposed Changes in Guidelines for New Program Approval

Attached you will find a revised draft copy of changes the staff is proposing the *Guidelines for the Approval of New Academic Programs*. The changes are being proposed to update policies to reflect changes in technology and processes and to clarify the application of existing processes and practice under the *Guidelines*.

The single, substantive change in the current revision of the original document (which was sent to you in preparation for discussion at the July 31 meeting of ACAP) is the addition of the last item on page 19. **That addition will request a statement to appear in each institutional proposal for new programs and modifications concerning whether the program will contain a comprehensive list of student learning outcomes and/or a capstone assessment.** The statement is a response to increasing interest in documented student outcomes in higher education at the Commission, the General Assembly, and the US Department of Education. The inclusion of the statement also brings the Commission policy into alignment with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) policy requiring that approved programs establish and evaluate program and learning outcomes.