South Carolina
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CAAL
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MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

From: Dr. Gail M. Morrison, Director, Academic Affairs and Licensing Division

Consideration of South Carolina State University Mission Statement Revision

Background

S.C. State University has requested that the Commission approve changes to its mission statement. Changes were submitted to Commission staff who determined that the requested changes were substantive and did not fall under the Commission guidelines for staff approval. A summary explanation follows with a staff analysis and recommendation for all requested changes at the end of the summary explanations. S.C. State's revised mission statement, current mission statement, and markup copy with changes shown are attached as **Appendix I**.

The revised mission statement was approved by the S.C. State University Board of Trustees on March 30, 2010, and transmitted to the Commission on Higher Education on the same day. Commission staff has reviewed the revised statement and found that changes requested are of two types:

- Non-substantive changes including editorial changes intended to bring brevity and increased focus to the mission statement. These changes, although extensive, do not affect the basic mission or program mix of the institution.

- The substantive change of adding engineering to the program mix which reads as follows:

> The University offers sixty baccalaureate programs in the areas of applied professional sciences, engineering technology, sciences, arts, humanities, education and business. (Existing mission statement)
>
> SC State University is committed to providing affordable and accessible quality baccalaureate programs in the areas of business, applied professional sciences, mathematics, natural sciences, **engineering**, engineering technology, education, arts, and humanities. (Proposed mission statement - emphasis added)

Discussion

Since 1987, S.C. State University has offered a Commission-approved program leading to the B.S. in Engineering Technology. In 2002, the institution was approved to participate in a joint program with the University of Wisconsin to offer a program leading to the B.S. degree in Nuclear Engineering. As this was a joint program with the degree being conferred jointly with the University of Wisconsin, no change in S.C. State's mission statement was considered necessary. S.C. State has recently submitted a program modification request to allow it to offer the Nuclear Engineering program as a free-standing program independent of the partnership with the University of Wisconsin. Staff has determined that, unlike the approval of the joint program, approval of the proposed free-standing program does require prior approval of a change in S.C. State's mission statement to allow a program at the baccalaureate level in engineering. At staff request, S.C. State submitted the requested substantive mission change.

The requested mission change is aligned with the Higher Education Study Committee's *Leveraging Higher Education for a Stronger South Carolina: Action Plan Implementation* report released in March 2009. In particular, two of the report's recommendations support the requested inclusion of "engineering" in S.C. State's mission statement:

> Recommendation 2.14. Expand existing and/or develop new STEM programs which reflect the economic needs of the state; and
>
> Recommendation 3.28. Increase the participation of underrepresented populations in science and technology fields.

Recommendation 3.28 includes the statement in its narrative that "Although all colleges and universities share responsibility for increasing African-American participation, South Carolina State University, the state's only public four-year HBCU, should have a significant role. S.C. State should provide individual and collaborative leadership with other universities to extend offerings in the STEM areas (e.g., S.C. State, jointly with another institution, has the only undergraduate nuclear engineering program in the state)." It is clear that engineering at S.C. State has a role to play in fulfilling the recommendations of the Committee.

Commission staff has requested input on the suggested change from other engineering degree-granting institutions in the state. None of these institutions has expressed opposition to the proposed change although they have expressed concerns about S.C. State's ability to develop and sustain new engineering programs in the current fiscal climate. The inclusion of engineering as a degree field in S.C. State's mission statement does not grant blanket approval to offer any engineering program put forward in the future. As is Commission policy, newly proposed programs will be considered individually and will have to meet academic, enrollment, resources, and sustainability standards.

Staff Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commend favorably to the Commission approval of the revised mission statement for S.C. State University.

APPENDIX I

A) S.C. State Current Mission Statement

B) S.C. State Revised Mission Statement

C) Markup Copy with Changes Shown

S.C. State Current Mission Statement

South Carolina State University, a senior comprehensive teaching institution, is committed to providing affordable and accessible quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs. This public university with a student population between 4,000 and 5,000 is located in Orangeburg, an area that has a traditional rural, agricultural economy which has expanded to include a business and industrial focus that is national and international in scope. South Carolina State University's 1890 land-grant legacy of service to the citizenry of the state is ensured through its collaborative efforts with local, rural, and statewide businesses, public education, colleges and industry. This symbiotic relationship provides a catalyst that spurs a reciprocal economic and social growth for the University, state, nation and the international community-at-large.

South Carolina State University, founded in 1896 as a historically Black co-educational institution, embraces diversity among its students, faculty, staff and programs. While maintaining its traditional focus, the University is fully committed to providing life-long learning opportunities for the citizens of the state and qualified students of varied talents and backgrounds in a caring and nurturing learning environment.

South Carolina State University, through instruction, research and service activities, prepares highly skilled, competent, economically and socially aware graduates to meet life's challenges and demands that enable them to work and live productively in a dynamic, global society. The University offers sixty baccalaureate programs in the areas of applied professional sciences, engineering technology, sciences, arts, humanities, education and business. A small number of programs are offered at the master's level in teaching, human services and agribusiness, and the educational specialist and doctorate programs are offered in educational administration. Faculty and students participate in research that stimulates intellectual growth, enhances and facilitates student learning and adds to the scientific knowledge base of the academy. Service activities, which are provided through programs related to agriculture, adult and continuing education, research, cultural arts, small business development and other special interest areas, are designed to enhance the quality of life and promote economic growth. These efforts, supported by various applications of technology, are achieved in a climate of mutual trust and respect through methods of scholarly inquiry and scientific research.

S.C. State Revised Mission Statement

South Carolina State University (SC State) is a historically Black public 1890 land-grant senior comprehensive institution of approximately 4,500-6,000 students. Located in Orangeburg, South Carolina, SC State University is committed to providing affordable and accessible quality baccalaureate programs in the areas of business, applied professional sciences, mathematics, natural sciences, engineering, engineering technology, education, arts, and humanities. A number of programs are offered at the master's level in teaching, human services and agribusiness, and the educational specialist and doctorate programs are offered in educational administration.

SC State University prepares highly skilled, competent and socially aware graduates to enable them to work and live productively in a dynamic, global society. Through technology and traditional methods of teaching and learning, research and service, the University enhances the quality of life of citizens and contributes to the economic development of the state and nation.

(This mission statement was approved by the S.C. State University Board of Trustees on March 30, 2010)

Markup Copy with Changes Shown

South Carolina State University (SC State) is a historically Black public 1890 land-grant , a senior comprehensive teaching institution of approximately 4,500-6,000 students. Located in Orangeburg, South Carolina, SC State University, is committed to providing affordable and accessible quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs. This public university with a student population between 4,000 and 5,000 is located in Orangeburg, an area that has a traditional rural, agricultural economy which has expanded to include a business and industrial focus that is national and international in scope. South Carolina State University's 1890 land-grant legacy of service to the citizenry of the state is ensured through its collaborative efforts with local, rural, and statewide businesses, public education, colleges and industry. This symbiotic relationship provides a catalyst that spurs a reciprocal economic and social growth for the University, state, nation and the international community-at-large.

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Thank you very much for your support of this request.