May 2, 2002

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Dalton B. Floyd, Jr., Chairman, and Members, Commission on Higher Education

From: Ms. Dianne Chinnes, Chairman, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

<u>**Consideration of Request to Renew License**</u>
South University, Savannah, GA, at Columbia
B.S., Legal Studies; Associate in Accounting, Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, Medical Assisting, Paralegal Studies;
Certificate in Paralegal Studies
<u>**and**</u>
<u>**Consideration of Request to Amend License**</u>
Associate in Information Technology; B.S., Information Technology;
B.B.A., Business Administration

<u>**Summary**</u>

South University <http://www.southuniversity.edu> requests renewal of the license of the Columbia branch of South University and requests approval of an amendment to the license to award the Associate in Information Technology degree, the B.S. in Information Technology degree, and the B.B.A. in Business Administration degree. South University of Carolina, Inc., a South Carolina corporation, is a 100% subsidiary and branch campus of South University, Inc., in Savannah, Georgia. Other branches are in Montgomery, Alabama, and West Palm Beach, Florida.

South University was formerly Columbia Junior College. Columbia Junior College was founded in 1935 as Columbia Commercial College, and in 1952 was purchased by the late Charles Gorman. The College evolved to become an associate degree-granting institution, and was accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). Michael Gorman became president in 1980, and continued to provide education and training in business and business-related fields.

Michael Gorman negotiated the sale of the school in September 1997, and in October 1997, the Commission licensed South College of Carolina, Inc., d/b/a Columbia Junior College, John T. South, III, of Savannah, Georgia as 100% stockholder. In July 2001 the Commission approved the merger of Columbia Junior College with South College, Savannah. South College became South University in January 2002 when it began offering graduate degrees. The current license period is through September 30, 2002.

South University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees. The medical assisting program is also accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The B.S. in Legal Studies and the Associate in Paralegal Studies are approved by the American Bar Association. The programs offered in Columbia, and those proposed to be offered in Columbia, are the same as those offered at the Savannah campus.

Department chairpersons, the chief academic officer, and an appropriate number of the faculty hold terminal degrees. With the exception of medical assisting faculty, all others hold master's degrees with at least 18 graduate semester hours in the teaching discipline, or a master's degree with a major in the teaching discipline.

The campus is located on a 2.25-acre site at 3810 Main Street in the Eau Claire community of Columbia. The facility provides more than 21,000 square feet of classroom and student services areas. The facilities include two computer labs, one with 20 Pentium II computers and one with 15 Pentium III computers. Each lab also includes two printers. The learning resources at the institution that support the current programs will be the foundation for the additional programs. The institution has budgeted to add appropriate journals and resources to support the upper-division courses. The library includes, in addition to a print collection of 5,000 volumes and 78 periodicals, five networked computers, color printer, and document processing center. On-line resources include LIRN, WestLaw, and Lexis Nexis Academic Universe. Students also have access to interlibrary loan, local libraries, and the South University main campus and the branch campus collections.

To qualify for admission, an individual must:
a.	Be a high school graduate or hold a GED or the equivalent.
b.	Submit a minimum combined SAT score of 830, combined ACT score of 17, a satisfactory score on the college-administered admissions examination, or meet the criteria established for acceptance as a transfer student.
c.	Complete the application form and attach the application fee.
d.	Submit an official transcript from all high schools and colleges attended.

Students in the two-year associate degree programs at South University can transfer their coursework to a bachelor's degree. Credit for transfer from another institution will be given if it was taken at an institution with recognized accreditation, if it is equivalent to courses offered at South University, and if it carries a grade of C or better. Students may also attempt to earn credit through the credit by examination process. Acceptance of credits earned at other institutions and/or through exemption is limited to 60% of the total hours required for the degree.

Tuition is $2,895 per quarter for 10-18 credit hours, $2,195 per quarter for 5-9 credit hours, $995 for 1-4 credit hours, and $6,495 for the 15-week paralegal certificate program. Tuition for the B.S. in IT will be $3,395 per quarter for 10-18 credit hours, $2,695 per quarter for 5-9 credit hours, and $1,295 per quarter hour for 1-4 credit hours.

Associate and B.S. in Information Technology

The information technology programs are designed to prepare students to enter software development and programming careers. The curricula target software development technologies used by corporations today. They emphasize software development skills and include Internet, web, database, client-server, and object-oriented technologies.

According to the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, the projected number of job openings by 2008 in computer programming and data processing services is 12,720 compared to 8,890 in 1998. With computers playing a vital role in almost every occupation from agricultural services to social services to construction, there appears to be significant demand and employment opportunities for information technology graduates.

The Associate in Information Technology program requires 92 quarter-credit hours and includes 32 quarter hours in general education, 24 quarter hours in business foundations, and 36 credit hours in information technology. Projected enrollment is 15 new students for the first year and 20-25 new students each year thereafter.

South University-Columbia offers a program leading to the Associate in Computer Information Systems (CIS). The CIS program focuses on software applications and database management with some programming instruction. After approval of the Associate in Information Technology, students enrolled in the CIS program will be "taught out" and the CIS program will be discontinued. Currently 66 students (approximately one-fourth of the study body) are enrolled in the CIS program.

The program leading to a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BS/IT) requires 180 quarter credit hours (equivalent of 120 semester hours) and includes 52 quarter hours in general education, 60 quarter hours in business foundations, and 68

quarter hours in information technology. Graduates of the BS/IT program may enter a variety of computer-related positions in business, education, health, or government. Projected enrollment is 15 new students the first year and 20-25 new students each year thereafter.

Bachelor of Business Administration

The objectives of the business program are to provide students with a broad academic background in general education, fundamental and theoretical business concepts, and experience in practical applications. The coursework develops analytical and reasoning skills, practical business skills, and sensitivity to cultural and political diversity, and introduces a wide variety of business knowledge and concepts. B.B.A. graduates may enter a variety of management positions in business, education, health, government, or manufacturing.

The Associate in Accounting and the Associate in Business Administration will transfer as the first two years of the B.B.A. Currently 85 students (approximately one-third of the student body) are enrolled in the associate degree programs related to the B.B.A. The program leading to the B.B.A. requires 184 quarter credit hours (equivalent of 123 semester hours) and includes 56 quarter hours in general education, 40 quarter hours in business foundation, and 88 quarter hours in business. Projected enrollment is 15 new students in the first year and 20-25 new students each year thereafter.

According to the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, the projected numbers of job openings in the business field per year until 2008 are projected to be as follows:

General Managers/Top Executives	1,650 jobs
Other Managers and Administrators	520 jobs
Financial Managers	220 jobs
Marketing & Sales Supervisor	1,160 jobs
Accounting	4,250 jobs

<u>Recommendation</u>

The Committee recommends that the Commission approve renewal of the license for five years of South University including an amendment to add the programs leading to the Associate degree in Information Technology; the B.S. degree in Information Technology; and the B.B.A. degree in Business Administration.