



March 2, 2012

Dr. Barry D. Goldstein
Vice President
Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033

Dear Dr. Goldstein,

As we forge forward to address the fourteen SACS recommendations, we are taking extreme precautions in addressing the integrity violation, Standard 2.7.2 Program Content and Standard 3.5.3 Undergraduate Programs. Multiple teams of faculty, administration and staff have cross referenced each academic program against the program advising sheets, catalog pages, and the graduation audits. In doing so, we found discrepancies in programming of the graduation audit system. A consultant was brought in and worked with staff to review and correct each and every academic program audit.

We are continuing a thorough and diligent review of all course substitutions to ensure that any and all inappropriate course changes are stopped. Our Substitution Committee has just completed another review and thorough analysis, which has resulted in the discovery of 54 course substitutions that have required further scrutiny. Of the 54 substitutions, it was determined that a total of three students with six substitutions graduated in December 2011 with substitutions in the core area. We are now in the process of notifying these students and advising them of their options. We are dedicated to working with each of them to ensure compliance with their graduation requirements. Please note the substitutions were made by administrators who are no longer at the college and were approved by a previous chief academic officer.

The aforementioned findings spawned a more comprehensive and thorough review of all course substitutions that have occurred for the last five years. Current students in the three programs where the majority of the egregious course substitutions occurred are attending mandatory advising sessions to ensure they are counseled appropriately.

As we continue reviewing the systems we have in place to address these issues, we will keep you informed. We are committed to ensuring that each and every Edison State College student fulfills their academic requirements before they earn their degree.

Sincerely,

Erin E. Harrel, Ph.D.
Interim Vice President, Academic Affairs

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