

Dr. James T. Rogers
Commission on Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033-4097

September 28, 1999

Dear Dr. Rogers:

Please find attached to this letter the First Follow-Up Report to the Commission on Colleges. This report addresses the visiting committee's recommendations cited in your letter to me dated January 4, 1999. The University regarded seriously the committee's recommendations and addressed each one in kind. We trust that our efforts will be found in compliance with the Criteria.

The following is a summary of our action:

Section 1.2 (Application of the Criteria), Recommendation 1

We have provided an update to our program list and a complete Roster of Distance Delivered Programs.

Section 4.1 (General Requirements of the Educational Program), Recommendation 3

The University evaluated our off-campus programs and found that quality and level of achievement of students are equivalent to comparable on-campus offerings.

Section 4.2.1 (Undergraduate Admission), Recommendation 4

The University amended our policy regarding readmission and appeal procedures after an academic suspension.

Section 4.3.2 (Graduate Admission), Recommendations 6 and 7

The Graduate School appointed an *ad hoc* committee and revised graduate admission policies according to SACS recommendations and other issues.

Section 4.5 (Distance Learning Programs), Recommendations 8 and 9

Our Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning was established and specific goals set within the context of the University's strategic plan.

Section 4.8.4 (Graduate Teaching Assistants), Recommendation 11

The Graduate School met with affected programs and now all of our programs are in compliance. The Graduate School will continue to review assignments and enforce the policy.

**Section 5.1.7 (Library/Learning Resources for Distance Learning Activities),
Recommendation 12**

The library implemented a new delivery system for off-campus students that is connected closely with the function of our Interlibrary Loan department to the satisfaction of our off-campus learners.

Section 5.5.4 (Intercollegiate Athletics: Academic Program), Recommendation 13

We have provided a copy of the Report by the University Committee on Athletics to document the University's new system of annual monitoring of compliance with intercollegiate athletics policies.

Thank you for this opportunity to report to the Commission on Colleges. I look forward to our continued relationship in good standing.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Torgerson
President
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University