



The Division of Enrollment and Information Management
Office of the Vice President
September 5, 2012

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan
President
Commission on Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033

BY CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

In response to your letter of May 4, 2011, requesting additional information regarding a new Master of Science degree in Accounting, the following information is being supplied. This information was supplied in the spring of 2011, yet a change in SACS Liaison on the Tarleton campus has left both Tarleton and TAMUCT unable to locate the documentation. Thus, we submit the requested information below:

a. Numbers of new faculty

Faculty in accounting

No new faculty will be added to support the program at this time. A new faculty position was added two years ago in anticipation of instituting the program. The department currently has four full-time faculty members who hold doctoral degrees in accounting. The fifth member of the department is seeking a terminal degree at this time. In the past, the fifth member's primary duties were with our prison program. His load with that program has decreased which allows him to teach more courses on campus. We will add a new faculty member if the program growth is significant.

Faculty in supporting fields

The MS in Accounting (MSA) should not require any increase in faculty in the short term in the supporting fields. Class sizes in the supporting courses have enough available space to support the anticipated enrollment from the MSA without requiring new sections to be added.

b. Numbers of new courses

New courses in accounting

There are thirteen new courses that have been approved for the MSA.

New courses in supporting fields

No new courses are anticipated in the supporting fields.

c. New library or other learning resources

The library has recently added the key databases required for our courses. Our department receives an allocation from the library which our faculty may use to acquire additional books and resources which will be available to our students

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through the library. The Graduate Studies Office will also support specific journal and book purchases on an ongoing basis. There is a designated research support account for new graduate programs.

d. New equipment or facilities

We have just opened a new building which includes all of the necessary equipment to allow our faculty to provide our students with a quality education using the different modalities currently available. Specific software and hardware for accounting spreadsheets and respective analysis will be supported by the Office of Graduate Studies.

e. New resource base

No new resources should be necessary to support the degree program beyond increased research and faculty development for specific accounting courses added to the curriculum. We currently have sufficient faculty, library resources (except for added accounting books and subject matter specific accounting journals*), and equipment/facilities resources to support the program. Past preparations for the program have placed us in a position to begin the program as soon as we receive SACSCOC approval.

The Office of Graduate Studies and the Library are increasing funding for specific accounting reference books for reserve, as well as adding specific peer-reviewed accounting journals as accounting faculty request. As noted in the previous correspondence dated March 15, 2011, this addition is viewed as non-substantive in nature as this proposed new degree program has closely related counterparts among previously approved programs. These options include the ability for students to pursue a concentration in Accounting at the graduate level. Existing graduate options in the business disciplines include degrees in Business Administration, Management and Leadership, and Human Resource Management.

In closing, authorization has been granted by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents and confirmed by The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for Tarleton State University to offer the Master of Science Degree in Accounting. The intention was to implement this program in fall of 2011. The realistic timeline is spring 2013. This degree will be offered at Texas A&M University-Central Texas (TAMU-CT) [the former Tarleton State University-Central Texas] which is accredited by The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools through Tarleton State University until separate accreditation is achieved. SACS has encouraged TAMU-CT to begin developing their unique curriculum and programs as evidence of their maturation to achieve separate accreditation.

Should you desire additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

SACS Liaison

cc:

Dr. Claudette Williams
Vice President, Commission on College

Dr. Karen Murray
Provost, Tarleton State University

Dr. F. Dominic Dottavio
President, Tarleton State University

Dr. Peg-Gray-Vickrey
Provost, Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Dr. Marc Nigliazzo
President, Texas A&M University, Central Texas

Dr. Tracy Teaff
Chief Liaison Officer