

### ***CS 3.4.10 - Responsibility for Curriculum***

The institution places primary responsibility for the content, quality, and effectiveness of the curriculum with its faculty.

#### **Compliance Finding: In Compliance**

##### **Narrative:**

The Faculty Senate of the University of South Carolina Beaufort (USC Beaufort) is "...endowed with all the powers and authority of the university faculty. The Senate shall formulate policy regarding the educational practices and standards of the university and all other matters pertaining to the conduct of faculty affairs, subject to review and approval by the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Chancellor, the President, and the Board of Trustees" [i]. Thus, one of the faculty's primary responsibilities is for the content, quality and effectiveness of the Curricula.

Each educational program for which academic credit is awarded is approved by the faculty and the administration. Following the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (SCCHE) Guidelines, the academic program proposal at USC Beaufort consists of a two-step process: program planning summary and full program proposal. Both planning summaries and full program proposals (as well as substantive content changes in a program of study) are developed as follows:

- Origination and approval by discipline faculty
- Approval of Department Chair
- Review and approval by the Courses and Curricula Committee of the Faculty Senate [ii]
- Review and approval by the Faculty Senate
- Review and approval by the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- Review and approval by the Chancellor
- Review and approval by the President
- Review and approval by the Board of Trustees [iii]
- Review and approval by the SCCHE

After the necessary institutional approvals have been granted, the SCCHE receives the program proposal. As stated in the South Carolina Code of Laws Section 59-103-35 [\[iv\]](#), "No new program may be undertaken by any public institution of higher education without the approval of the commission." According to the CHE Guidelines for New Academic Program Approval [\[v\]](#), the SCCHE's role in program approval is to "take a statewide viewpoint (and, in some cases, a regional or national viewpoint)" to determine the

- Objectives of the proposed program
- State-wide need for the program
- Programs' compatibility with the mission, role, and scope of the institution
- Program cost
- Existence of necessary personnel, facilities, library holdings, and other essentials necessary to conduct a program of high quality; or the existence of a plan for such essentials

Changes which do not meet the SCCHE definition for "substantive" are evaluated and approved by the following procedure:

- Origination and approval by discipline faculty
- Approval of Department Chair
- Review and approval by the Courses and Curricula Committee of the Faculty Senate
- Review and approval by the Faculty Senate
- Review and approval by the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

To demonstrate this process, one degree program, Nursing, will be examined. In 2005 the Nursing faculty submitted to the Courses and Curricula Committee a proposal for a baccalaureate degree in nursing [\[vi\]](#). The Courses and Curricula Committee approved the proposal and brought it before the Faculty Senate at the October 2005 meeting. The proposal was approved, and after receiving the necessary signatures, the proposal was sent to SCCHE. On July 31, 2006 the SCCHE approved USC Beaufort to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing [\[vii\]](#).

In its continued commitment to excellence, USC Beaufort is seeking external accreditation for several of its academic programs. For example, the Education Department is seeking accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). In July of 2007, USC Beaufort received notification from NCATE and the National Association for Education for Young Children (NAEYC) that the Early Childhood Education program is nationally recognized with conditions through spring 2009. The program will be listed as nationally recognized on websites and/or other publications of NAEYC. The NCATE accreditation visit will occur in April 2008.

When the USC Beaufort Faculty Manual was approved in August 2007, USC Beaufort moved to a departmental structure. As a result, new chairs were elected and new departments began plans to seek external accreditations when appropriate. For example, Human Services plans to seek accreditation from the Council for Standards for Human Service Education (CSHSE). Business will eventually seek accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). USC Beaufort's newest degree program, RN to BSN, began in Fall 2007. The Nursing program is accredited by the SC Board of Nursing, and is seeking voluntary national accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

For those programs not reviewed by an outside agency, USC Beaufort uses Institutional Effectiveness Reports to ensure all programs assess goals and make improvements based on these assessments. In addition, some degree programs have their own evaluation process. For example, all psychology majors will take the Major Field Test in Psychology to evaluate student learning outcomes. Scores on this test do not effect a student's qualification for receiving the baccalaureate degree, nor do they become part of a student's permanent record.

In May 2008, USC Beaufort's degree programs will complete their first four-year cycle. Once this cycle is completed, program review will take place on a three-year cycle. The Courses and Curricula Committee will recommend to the Faculty Senate policies (based on SCCHE guidelines) regarding the academic programs and a schedule for program evaluation in the fall [\[viii\]](#).

### **Supporting Documentation**

- [i USC Beaufort Faculty Manual -- Faculty Senate](#)
- [ii USC Beaufort Faculty Manual -- Courses and Curricula Committee](#)
- [iii Board of Trustees ByLaws](#)
- [iv South Carolina Code of Laws Section 59-103-35](#)
- [v SCCHE Guidelines for New Academic Program Approval](#)
- [vi Final Nursing Proposal](#)
- [vii SCCHE -- Approval Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program](#)
- [viii Course and Curriculum letter from Faculty Senate](#)