

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

September 18, 2000

Dear Dr. Rogers:

Please find attached to this letter the Second Follow-Up Report to the Commission on Colleges. This report addresses the recommendations cited in your letter to me dated March 9, 2000. 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**

Following your letter to me dated March 10, 2000, the University submitted an *Addendum to the First Follow-Up Report* for the June 20 meeting of the COC. Virginia Tech has completed prospectuses for its new degree programs for which prior approval was not obtained and also prospectuses for expanded campus activity. The University has now submitted notification for all substantive changes since 1994 when the annual Institutional Profile ceased.

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

The university has submitted results of assessment of its online courses and has demonstrated how the results of these assessments have been used to improve its distance learning programs.

**Section 4.8.4 (Graduate Teaching Assistants), Recommendation 11**

The University conducted a thorough audit of our graduate teaching assistants and affirmed that those students do indeed have 18 semester hours of credit in their teaching disciplines. Documentation is provided via transcripts.

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

The library assesses services to distance learners as a part of the regular assessment cycle. Those results are then used to improve services if concerns are found. This report includes the assessment findings and corresponding actions.

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

We have provided a copy of the 1999 Report by the University Committee on Athletics to document the University's system of annual monitoring of compliance with intercollegiate athletics policies.

Thank you for this opportunity to report to the Commission on Colleges. The University has made every effort to bring our institution into compliance with the *Criteria* through a series of reports and correspondence since March 2000. We believe that we have met the outstanding recommendations from the 1998 Reaffirmation Committee Visit. Please contact me if additional information is needed prior to the December annual meeting.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Steger  
President  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University