



Date: April 4, 2022

To: FMU Faculty, Staff and Students

From: SACSCOC Task Force

Re: SACSCOC Update

Continuing our commitment to transparency, the Task Force will update the University community about the upcoming visit of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) four-day campus site visit scheduled for April 11-14, 2022.

On Wednesday, April 6, at 4p.m., the FMU SACSCOC Task Force will hold a town hall meeting for faculty, staff, students, and alumni in the Lou Rawls Center for the Performing Arts.

Since June 2021, after being placed on Probation for Good Cause, FMU has had to make very hard decisions that included program closures, program merges, and the elimination of faculty, staff, and vacant positions.

In January, FMU announced 16 programs were closing due to low enrollment over a five-year span. As a result, 11 faculty positions were eliminated due to the closing or merging of these programs effective May 14, 2022. The University is reducing salaries of \$60,000 and above by 10 percent for some faculty, staff, and all administration.

Other operational cost cutting measures include a hiring freeze for non-critical areas, the reduction of University-wide travel, and department budget cuts up to 30 percent.

FMU also has identified alternative revenue streams such as development of the University owned property, potential sale of four acres next to the University, investment income, increased Board of Trustees contributions and fundraising, and the adoption of a restrictive endowment borrowing policy.

The University's Momentum Fund will raise \$15 million in unrestricted gifts over the next five years, of which \$5 million will be raised or donated by the members of the FMU Board of Trustees.

The success of FMU's students remains a top priority which is why the University is dedicated to ensuring the students are prepared to graduate with degrees that allow them to compete for high paying jobs. Therefore, the leadership team and Board of Trustees have taken the opportunity to reimagine the University's future.

Procedures were put in place to ensure all students whose programs were eliminated in January have a pathway to degree completion and graduation. The University has worked hard to grow enrollment and has seen a stabilization of enrollment driven by retention, persistence, and new admissions strategies.



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In June 2022, a decision will be made by SACSCOC regarding the status of the University retaining its accreditation.

As always, we aim to keep you informed each step of the way and provide the best possible FMU experience for our Lion family.

We thank you for your support as we navigate through this important matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact publicaffairs@fmuniv.edu. To read previous communications about SACSCOC and the University's response, please go to www.fmuniv.edu.