

August 18, 2008

Dr. Belle Wheelan, President  
Commission on Colleges  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, GA 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

I am writing in response to the SACS-COC reply to Temple College's letter from our previous president, Dr. Marc A. Nigliazzo (April 7, 2008 – received in the SACS office April 21, 2008) regarding changes that are occurring at our college. I spoke with Dr. Sarah Armstrong about our situation at the substantive change workshop following the SACS Summer Institute. We agreed that Temple College needs to further clarify its position regarding our situation and schedule a conference call with SACS-COC staff for sometime after Labor Day. Timing is critical for us, as our Compliance Certification is due March 16, 2009.

In the reply from SACS-COC, a prospectus was requested regarding the (1) East Williamson County Higher Education Center (EWCHEC), the (2) Texas Bioscience Institute (TBI), and the (3) Cameron Education Center (CEC). While we agree that the Cameron Education Center needs a substantive change review, we are not certain that the EWCHEC and TBI do.

**East Williamson County Higher Education Center**

The EWCHEC is a Multi-Institution Teaching Center (MITC) located in Taylor, Texas. While Temple College is the lead partner in the facility, the facility itself is not considered a separate site/center for Temple College. Temple College at Taylor (TCAT) is simply one of several partners in the EWCHEC. The Temple College at Taylor center was accredited as part of Temple College's reaffirmation of accreditation in 2000. Although the EWCHEC building will be located approximately 3-4 miles from the current TCAT building, the programming and administration for TCAT will not change. It was not possible to build the new building next to the current building, as it is in a landlocked location in the center of town (Taylor, Texas). The two buildings, the current TCAT building and the new EWCHEC building, will be shared by all partners in the MITC. The biggest benefit for Temple College is the extra classroom space made available by having use of a second building. Temple College has run out of classroom space for its current programming in the original TCAT building.

### ***Rationale for not needing a substantive change review for the EWCHEC***

Our assertion is that the Temple College at Taylor programming and administration will not change. The programming will simply occur in both buildings of the EWCHEC instead of just the original building of the Temple College at Taylor center.

### ***Texas Bioscience Institute***

Lack of space was also a major consideration when Temple College was approached about implementing programs that would support the rapid expansion of medical research occurring in Temple. Much of that research is taking place at the Scott and White Hospital's West Campus (SWWC). Space at the SWWC was made available so that Temple College could respond to the needs/desires of the community. This space, which houses a middle college program with a STEM focus and a program in Biotechnology, is what we call the Texas Bioscience Institute (TBI). Temple College did not have the classroom or laboratory space in its existing buildings to support these programs. The SWWC is located in Temple approximately six miles from the rest of the main campus. As indicated in Temple College's letter of April 7, 2008, Temple College considers this space as a "highly specialized extension of instructional space from the *Main Campus*". The Middle College and the Biotechnology program are both supervised by offices or departments located on the main campus, and students receive instructional and student support services (including library services) through offices or facilities on the main campus. This new space has allowed Temple College to offer more sections of the science and math classes necessary for our Health Science programs, and students are taking advantage of this opportunity by taking classes at both the main campus as well as the TBI building. The space was made possible through partnerships between Temple College and community entities. Because of the laboratories needed for these programs, implementation of these programs would not have been possible without the available space in the SWWC building here in town.

### ***Rationale for not needing a substantive change review***

The programs taught out at the TBI building, which are supervised by offices and departments on the main campus, are simply taught in another **building** (an extension of our main campus) at a location here in Temple. As previously indicated in our letter of April 7, 2008, Temple College has "no plans to place the TBI facility under individual supervision or to move in the direction of a stand-alone educational center". Simply put, there was no existing science laboratory space available at the main campus or the money/time needed to plan and build a new building to support these programs. The space at SWWC was made available by community partners to house these programs so that Temple College could adequately respond to community needs in a timely manner.

I hope this clearly describes our assessment of these facilities. If we have misunderstood SACS-COC policy regarding these two buildings (EWCHEC and TBI), we would very much like clarification so that we can properly address this situation and be clear about how to respond should we encounter similar situations in the future. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact me at work (254)-298-8350, on my cell phone (254)-231-1566, or by e-mail at [paul.foutz@templejc.edu](mailto:paul.foutz@templejc.edu).

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We greatly appreciate the guidance you provide at SACS-COC.

Sincerely,

Paul F. Foutz, Ph.D.  
SACS Liaison  
Division Director – Math, Science, and P.E.  
Administrative Intern, Office of the President