From:	SPC-PR
To:	SPC-EMPLOYEES
Subject:	Current status regarding majors versus concentrations at St. Philip"s College
Date:	Wednesday, May 13, 2015 3:09:55 PM
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THE FOLLOWING IS SENT ON BEHALF OF DR. ADENA WILLIAMS LOSTON.

TO: SPC Administration, Faculty, Academic Chairs, and Staff:

This letter serves to ensure clarity and reinforce our current status regarding majors versus concentrations at St. Philip's College. On February 25, 2015, SPC submitted the SACSCOC compliance report citing the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) degrees with areas of concentration (not majors).

St. Philip's College offers four degrees: Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS), Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) and the Associate of Applied Science (AAS). Beginning Fall 2015 and through guidance from Dr. Bell Wheelan, President of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) in correspondence dated on March 13, 2015, and April 29, 2015, nothing other than the degree (AA, AS, and AAT) will be listed on the SPC student transcript or diploma.

Majors and Concentrations

Majors are defined as "a coherent body of coursework within a degree program" and concentrations are not majors. Since degree programs in the AA and AS are primarily general education courses (with a State mandated 42 hours in the general education core), we offer the AA and AS degrees with areas of concentration only. The St. Philip's College AA and AS degrees with suggested concentrations may lead to specific major areas of study at receiving institutions and some articulation agreements for specific programs of study are in place at the colleges.

In the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees students are typically enrolled in 15 hours of general education courses and the remainder of their coursework is related to a specific discipline (examples: aircraft technology, culinary, automotive).

History of Academic Program Changes

- Majors were replaced by Concentrations in **FY 11-12.**
- On **September 18, 2013, March 25, 2014, and November 11, 2014**, the faculty, staff and administration were invited to participate in "Calls to Conversation," and were provided updates on efforts being made in the development of the SACSCOC Compliance Report and the development and implementation of the QEP.
- On **January 27, 2014,** SPC leadership met with SACSCOC Chief of Staff, our former liaison, Dr. Johnson, in Atlanta, Georgia. In discussing the term "majors," he stated the limited number of hours above the general education/core requirements raised concerns.
- On **March 25, 2014**, in a "Calls to Conversation" led by the President, Dr. Johnson's guidance regarding the term "majors" was presented. With the entire college community invited and approximately 200 people in attendance, the SPC community arrived at a consensus that we would not use the term "majors" for the AA or AS degrees.
- During the SPC "Good-to-Great" hosted on **May 21-22, 2014**, SPC student government, faculty senate, staff council leadership, department chairs, and members of the president's cabinet provided input to refine strategies for SACSCOC reaffirmation.
- On **August 15, 2014,** the Chairs' Academy led by the President and VPAS focused its presentation on the distinction between Program Outcomes, Program Student Learning Outcomes, and Institutional Learning Outcomes. SPC chairs decided to develop SLO's at the program level and appointed leads for the AA (Gregory Gonzalez) and AS (Cindy Katz).
- During the SPC "All College Meetings" hosted **August 16, 2014 and January 12, 2015,** a synopsis of the SACSCOC implementation plan was presented to the faculty, staff and administration.
- At the **December 16, 2014,** Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting, the issue of majors versus concentrations was discussed and there was a reset to the previous catalog.

On **February 10, 2015,** SPC leadership restructured the SACSCOC Report to reflect concentrations.

Currently, we are addressing the SACSCOC Off-Site Report recommendations through submission of a detailed SACSCOC Focused Report. Our Focused Report will provide evidence and documentation for noted non-compliance standards. It is important that all SPC constituents understand the history of our academic program changes. Our intent is to provide no barriers in creating flexibility for SPC students to enhance transferability of coursework.

Regards,

Dr. Adena Williams Loston
President