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UWA's probation ended by accreditation agency



The University of West Alabama in Livingston is pictured in this March 26, 2010 file photo. SACS removed the school from probation over its accreditation.

Staff File Photo

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By Wayne Grayson Staff Writer

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The University of West Alabama in Livingston was removed from probation by its accrediting agency earlier this week.

During a meeting in Orlando on Monday, the board of trustees of the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges voted to remove UWA from probation "with no further report."

UWA was placed on probation in July after it failed to meet Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1.1 of the SACS Principles of Accreditation, which measures the effectiveness of each institution's educational programs.

UWA failed to provide enough documentation as evidence that it actively measures the student learning outcomes of its programs.

UWA President Richard Holland said Tuesday he was not surprised

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by the board's move.

“We knew we would do well in meeting this request. This was not a matter of compliance with a standard; instead, it was a matter of supplying additional documentation to prove to SACS that we have met their standards,” Holland said in an email to The Tuscaloosa News.

In fact, Holland and UWA Provost David Taylor voiced the same confidence at a trustees meeting in September where they updated trustees on the work being done to ensure the probation would be lifted.

Taylor also reminded trustees that UWA was not the only institution working to better meet the standard. He told them that in 2009, 82 percent of the institutions under review by the accrediting agency were found to be in non-compliance with the same standard and that by 2010, that number had risen to 89 percent.

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