



THE UNIVERSITY
of **NORTH CAROLINA**
at **CHAPEL HILL**

Office of the Chancellor
103 South Building
Campus Box 9100
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-9100

**Response to the May 1, 2013 Report
of the Special Committee**

Date of Visit: April 2-4, 2013

Submitted by:

Holden Thorp, Chancellor
(919) 962-1365

Lynn Williford, Assistant Provost for Institutional Research and Assessment, Accreditation Liaison
(919) 962-1339



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

HOLDEN THORP
Chancellor

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May 29, 2013

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

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

Enclosed is the University's response to the May 1 report prepared by the Special Committee. We appreciate the diligent and thoughtful approach the committee members took while they were on campus. My colleagues and I came away from that experience feeling that we had the appropriate opportunities to provide information and answer questions. Their feedback was helpful.

The University accepts the Special Committee's sole recommendation to demonstrate the integrity of the degrees awarded to currently enrolled students who previously received academic credit for the Type 1 courses as identified in the independent, outside review conducted by Governor Martin and Baker Tilly.

Our response expands upon the original plans detailed in the First Monitoring Report in March to more comprehensively address the integrity of degrees. We believe the additional commitments described in this document show a principled, systematic and fair approach to protecting the value of the degrees the University will ultimately award to our students when they fulfill their course requirements.

It is important for members of the SACS Commission on Colleges Board of Trustees and the public to know that the unethical actions by two people that required the University to go through this process in no way reflect upon the other current and past faculty and staff in the Department of African and Afro-American Studies. We remain saddened and angry about the impact of their unprofessional actions on the University.

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.

May 29, 2013

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Looking forward, we are confident that the new policies and procedures the University has put in place based on seven internal and independent reviews or investigations will ensure that nothing like this will ever happen again. The University's Board of Trustees and the University of North Carolina's Board of Governors have endorsed the actions we have taken. Carolina is a stronger and better university because of how we have responded to these challenges.

We are hopeful that the SACSCOC Board of Trustees will agree with that assessment.

Sincerely,



H. Holden Thorp

HHT:bl

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Cheryl D. Cardell, Vice President, SACSCOC

thorp/wheelan52913

Response to the May 1, 2013 Report of the Special Committee
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
May 28, 2013

The following recommendation was cited in the Report of the Special Committee:

Integrity 1.1, Recommendation 1:

The Special Committee recommends that the institution must demonstrate the integrity of the degrees awarded to currently enrolled students who received academic credit for the Type 1 courses and for which that credit is used to fulfill degree requirements.

Response

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill acknowledges that an unprofessional set of circumstances occurred in the Department of African and Afro-American Studies between 1997 and 2009. During that time, 384 unique students were enrolled in courses that since have been defined as “Type 1” by an independent review conducted by former N.C. Governor James Martin and Baker Tilly consultants. Type 1 refers to a lecture course section in which the faculty member listed as instructor of record denied teaching the course section and signing the grade roll, or the chair stated that the course section had not been taught.

The University does not believe that credit was awarded for courses in which students did no work, or that degrees were awarded to students who did not earn them. All of the evidence that has been found – as initially reported in the *Review of Courses in the Department of African and Afro-American Studies* and subsequently reiterated in *Governor Martin’s Academic Anomalies Review Report* and the *Board of Governors Academic Review Panel Report* – indicates that students were required to write lengthy papers in the Type 1 courses, and did what they were asked to do. In every case in which the University looked for evidence of work, evidence was found – often including drafts or final versions of the papers themselves. None of the investigations found evidence that students received credit for courses for which they did no work.

Subsequent to the SACSCOC-appointed Special Committee visit of April 2-4, 2013 -- a peer review -- the University has decided to undertake additional methods to ensure the integrity of degrees for the 80 students who took Type 1 courses who have not yet graduated. Going forward, the University will ensure that these students take an additional course for each Type 1 course previously completed, as detailed below.

Provisions for Students without Degrees

Eighty (80) of the 384 students who were enrolled in Type 1 courses had not completed requirements for graduation when the University submitted its March 15, 2013 report to

SACSCOC. At that time 44 were in good standing and 36 were academically ineligible. Since then, additional analysis of the academic standing of these 80 students has been conducted by UNC-Chapel Hill to determine which students would need additional courses to fulfill their graduation requirements.

Each of the 80 students was assigned to one of the following categories:

- **No Impact** = Thirty-four (34) students are in this category. Some of them registered for a Type 1 course but did not receive credit for it. Others will graduate with more than the minimum of 120 credit hours required for graduation without counting the Type 1 course(s). Four (4) students completed their undergraduate degrees at other institutions according to information obtained from the National Student Clearinghouse. In a few other cases, the Type 1 course was a prerequisite to a higher-level course (which was conducted appropriately) that was subsequently completed satisfactorily.
- **Impact** = These forty-six (46) students will all be required to take an additional course to supplement any Type 1 course used to fulfill requirements for their UNC-Chapel Hill baccalaureate degree. All Type 1 courses, associated grades, and credit will remain on the transcript but if it had been used to satisfy a requirement in the past, either in a major or within the General Education curriculum, or as part of the minimum 120 credit hours, an additional course will be required.

UNC-Chapel Hill has developed a process to notify these 46 affected students. Each student who successfully completed a Type 1 course will be offered three possibilities for proceeding to graduation:

- Provide the past coursework, so that it can be re-evaluated by a committee of faculty members knowledgeable in the topic;
- Sit for a challenge examination;
- Take an additional course(s). Each student who received credit for a Type 1 course will be required to earn an additional three academic hours to graduate; a student who took more than one Type 1 course will have that requirement increased by an additional three-hour course for each credited completion of a Type 1 course. If this option is pursued by a student, tuition and fees will be covered by the University. UNC-Chapel Hill will also cover the costs of textbooks and other related/required instructional materials.

UNC-Chapel Hill is making this effort to ensure the integrity of the degrees it awards.

A letter from the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences has been sent [see Attachment A] to the last known address of each of the impacted students via Certified Mail / Return Receipt, requesting that each one make an appointment with the Associate Dean and Director of the Academic Advising Program as soon as possible. A summary [see Attachment B] of remaining degree requirements has also been created and placed in the official academic record for each of these students. If the letter is returned (address unknown), it will be placed in the Official

Academic Record which is retained for one year after the student receives an undergraduate degree (when the transcript is sealed, according to University policy).

An academic hold has been placed on each student's record to prevent registration and obtaining a transcript until the student has been seen by the Associate Dean and Director of the Academic Advising Program. When these students have their appointment, the Associate Dean and Director of the Academic Advising Program will review remaining degree requirements -- which will supersede all previous consultations and correspondence -- and provide each student with their options, including the opportunity to complete additional coursework at University expense.

Even though the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill continues to firmly believe that no credit was awarded for courses for which students did no work, it is even more concerned with the integrity of the degrees it awards to all students, and is therefore undertaking this extraordinary step, based on the strong recommendation made by the SACSCOC-appointed Special Committee in April 2013.

Provisions for Students Who Graduated

The University cannot address the status of students who took Type 1 courses and have already graduated. According to University policy, transcripts are "frozen" one year to the date after a student receives a degree. As the policy [see Attachment C] states: "Adjustments may be made to a transcript only for one year following the date of graduation." Moreover, UNC-Chapel Hill has verified that the students who took a Type 1 course and graduated in or after May 2012 had fulfilled more than the 120 credits required for graduation, and did not need the Type 1 course to obtain the degree.

Prior to the visit by the Special Committee, UNC-Chapel Hill had already decided to offer an additional course to any alumnus of the University who feels that he/she was deprived of the fullness of their academic experience at Carolina by having enrolled in a Type 1 course. This arrangement, documented in in UNC-Chapel Hill's March 8, 2013 Response to the January 16, 2013 Request from SACSCOC, will apply to any of those 304 University alumni who completed a Type 1 course offered by the Department of African and Afro-American Studies between 1997 and 2009.

For these students the following provisions are being made:

- Tuition and fees for one supplemental course will be covered by the University at any time during the next five years, beginning with the Fall 2013 Semester through Summer Session II in 2018. UNC-Chapel Hill will also cover the costs of textbooks and other related/required instructional materials.
- Any course for which prerequisites are satisfied can be taken as the supplemental course (i.e., the student is not limited to courses offered by the Department of African and Afro-American Studies) provided space is available.

- Registration for a face-to-face course is preferable, since most Type 1 courses were labeled inappropriate because they were offered without appropriate instructor contact. Other courses, for example, Carolina Courses Online, may be requested by the alumnus.
- Students must participate fully in the class by taking all examinations, writing any and all papers, and participating in discussions. Participation in the class will be noted on the transcript, but the course will not be for credit and no grade will be awarded. This provision leaves the transcript sealed at the point of graduation (per University policy) and therefore has no retroactive implications concerning cumulative GPA or hours completed toward the degree.

Attachment A



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION
3010 STEELE BUILDING T 919.843.7773
214 E. CAMERON AVE. F 919.843.6557
CAMPUS BOX 3504
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3504

TO: Official Academic Record for <name> PID# <number>
FROM: Bobbi Owen, Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education
RE: Degree requirements, effective immediately
DATE: May 15, 2013

During the Summer Session II 2009 <name> was enrolled in two courses at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The University has since discovered that one of them, <course>, was not conducted appropriately and therefore will require an additional course to supplement the requirements for his baccalaureate degree. <course>, the associated grade, and credit will remain on the transcript (the course was an elective).

Following is a summary, which supersedes all previous correspondence, of remaining degree requirements, for a BA with a major in COMM (Interpersonal concentration):

- 24 academic hours (may include electives)
- A 2.0 cumulative GPA
- 4 COMM major courses
 - 2 COMM courses, COMM 140 and 160, with the grade of C or higher in both
 - COMM 170 with a grade of “C” or higher
 - 1 COMM course numbered 400 or above in the Interpersonal concentration
- BIOL 101L or another PX course (science with lab)
- LFIT
- QI or second QR course
- EE connections course (may double count)

Attachment B



UNC
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
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KAREN M. GIL, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Lee G. Pedersen Distinguished Professor of Psychology

May 14, 2013

First_Name Last_Name
Mailing_Address
Mailing_Address_Line_2
City_State_Zip

Dear First_Name Last_Name,

Graduating from college is an important step to fulfilling your ambitions. I am pleased to learn that you are working on the remaining requirements for a B.A. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The next thing for you to do before registering for any additional courses is to contact Dr. Lee May, Associate Dean and Director of the Academic Advising Program. She will be sure you are aware of your remaining requirements and good strategies for completing them.

Please contact her at your earliest convenience to schedule an appointment to meet in person or by phone. She can be reached directly at lee_may@unc.edu or 919-843-9030 or through her assistant, Ann Oldham at aoldham@email.unc.edu or 919-843-8651.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Gil, Ph.D.
Lee G. Pederson Distinguished Professor of Psychology
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

cc: Lee May, Associate Dean and Director, Academic Advising

ACADEMIC PROCEDURES

Regulations and Requirements

Students are responsible for observing the procedures, regulations, and requirements of the University as they are set forth here and in other official University publications. This section describes many of the requirements and regulations that apply to undergraduates, but it is not a complete list of all such regulations and requirements. Unless otherwise stated, the regulations described in this section will govern the academic progress of the students from their first year in the General College through their final semester in the College of Arts and Sciences or one of the undergraduate professional schools. The staff of the University will gladly provide students with detailed information concerning their academic program or academic problems, but this does not relieve any student of individual responsibility for meeting the University's requirements and observing University regulations.

By University policy, the regulations in this bulletin are not necessarily valid beyond the academic year for which it was published. The faculty reserves the right to make any changes deemed necessary in the curricula and in regulations. Ordinarily, students may expect to receive a degree by fulfilling the requirements of a curriculum as specified in the *Undergraduate Bulletin* for the year in which the student matriculated at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The University is not strictly obligated to fulfill this expectation since changes to the structure of degree requirements may entail widespread curricular adjustments, but it will make every effort to modulate changes so that appropriate substitutes for particular requirements, or particular courses, are available to students operating under a previous set of expectations.

Policy on Awarding of Undergraduate Degrees and Transcript Notations

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will award only one bachelor's degree to a student, regardless of a possible second-major declaration, and will not admit or award a degree to a student who has already earned a bachelor's degree through another school of the University or at another college. Undergraduates in the professional schools in the Divisions of Academic Affairs and Health Affairs may earn a second major (not a second degree) in the College of Arts and Sciences or another professional school, but the first major must be in the professional school. Exception: a student may earn a second bachelor's degree in one of several health profession schools of the University after receiving a bachelor's degree if the student is admitted to the professional school.

Students pursuing two major fields of study for the bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree earn only one degree and receive only one diploma. Both the diploma and the official transcript will indicate the degree and the two majors.

Students completing the requirements for both a bachelor of science degree and a bachelor of arts degree earn only the bachelor of science degree and receive only that diploma. Students completing the requirements for both a bachelor of arts degree and a bachelor of fine arts or bachelor of music degree earn only the bachelor of fine arts or bachelor of music degree and receive only that diploma. Note that these students must complete General Education requirements pertinent to the bachelor of arts as well as all requirements for the

bachelor of fine arts or bachelor of music degree. Both the diploma and the official transcript will indicate the degree (with its major) and the second major.

Related Policies

Under no circumstances can a second undergraduate degree be awarded in Academic Affairs after one has been earned in Health Affairs. In the rare instance that an undergraduate student completes the requirements for an undergraduate degree and a graduate degree at the same time, the two degrees cannot be awarded at the same graduation. The undergraduate degree must be awarded first, and the graduate degree awarded at a subsequent degree award date.

Students who apply to graduate on a given degree award date, but who must complete requirements (such as courses with grades of IN or AB) after that degree award date, must reapply to graduate on a degree award date that follows the actual completion of requirements. Coursework taken after the degree award date cannot be used to change a degree already awarded, or to complete retroactively a degree, or to add retroactively an additional major or minor.

Adjustments may be made to a transcript only for one year following the date of graduation. Grade appeals, for instance, can be initiated after graduation. Courses with temporary grades not affecting graduation (AB or IN) can be completed after the date of graduation and the grade point average changed accordingly; however, the student's status at the time of graduation is not affected. Graduation with distinction, for instance, is based only on the grade point average at the date of graduation and may not be awarded retroactively. Students who neglect to declare a second major or a minor at the time of graduation may request that the dean's office verify that the requirements had been satisfied at the time of graduation. In such cases, indication of the second major or minor can be added to the transcript within one year after the graduation date.

Students who enter the University as first-year students in summer 2007 or later, as sophomore transfer students in summer 2008 or later, or as junior transfer students in summer 2009 or later, must petition if they wish to enroll in a ninth semester. Permission to enroll in a ninth semester or beyond must be secured in advance from the appropriate officials in the college or school in which the student is enrolled. Students who are granted permission to enroll in an additional semester will graduate with one major only and no minors indicated on the transcript.

Registration

General Policies

UNC-Chapel Hill students use the ConnectCarolina Student Center at MyUNC to register for courses. Students should refer to the Web Registration Quick Reference on the Office of the University Registrar's Web site at registrar.unc.edu/Registration/RegistrationGuide/CCM1_042550 for instructions regarding registration.

Students who register during the billing period must pay tuition and fees, or give notice of anticipated aid, to the Office of Student Accounts and University Receivables by the published tuition and fees due date or their schedule will be cancelled and all their classes dropped before the beginning of classes. Students who register after