STAFF ANALYSIS OF INSTITUTIONAL REPORT

DATE: April 8, 2004
STAFF: Diane Nyhammer
REVIEWED BY: Barbara Pollard Taylor

INSTITUTION: Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Kenneth W. Dobbins, President

PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTION RE: REPORT: A progress report due on 1/15/04 focused on diversity, technology, and off-campus programs.

ITEMS ADDRESSED IN REPORT: The Higher Learning Commission office received the Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) report on the above topics on 1/15/04.

STAFF ANALYSIS: The team report of the October 2000 evaluation visit to SEMO identified three challenges: the institution's commitment to diversity, to technology development, and to support of off-campus programs. SEMO's response to each of these challenges is summarized below.

**Commitment to diversity.** The Team challenged the University to put into place, realistic goals and effective recruiting practices to assure measurable changes in the diversity of the campus. SEMO reported strengthened minority recruitment and retention efforts with goals of 10% increases in minority faculty and staff and 5% increase in students of color. Since the evaluation visit, minority student enrollment has increased 28% to 824 students. Full-time minority faculty currently number 50 faculty, a 14% increase. Recruitment and retention strategies will be reflected in a campus-wide Strategic Diversity Plan that will also develop ways to improve campus climate. For staff, the University has revised its recruitment plans and its ways to identify areas of under representation among staff. These changes will be reflected in the Affirmative Action Plan.

**Currency and maintenance of technology.** The Team recommended that the University have systems to maintain appropriate academic and administrative technology. The University created the assistant vice-president level position for leadership in information technology. An
Information Technology Committee, co-chaired by the assistant vice-president for information technology and the vice-provost, oversees technology development. Guided by the mission and strategic plan, the University reported actions that provide structure and more timely responses to technology needs. It further reorganized computer services and telecommunications units, and enhanced web course support.

Monitor off-campus programs. SEMO’s report on its Extended Learning/Off-Campus programs described growth in enrollments and in numbers of degree programs offered. The University continues to develop web-based courses for programs such as the Bachelor of General Studies and to use various delivery modes to improve instruction and maximize teacher and student time. In addition, faculty are assisted in developing courses for ITV and the WEB, and receive incentives to teach at off-campus sites. New ITV classrooms were added both on campus and at each of the four Higher Education Centers. The new facilities support the new degree program offerings both in number and in the quality of the programs.

Conclusion. SEMO has demonstrated that it is attending to the challenges identified by the evaluation team. The evidence presented in this report describes the programs, processes, and personnel that are in place to assure constituencies that the University is giving immediate and continuing attention to diversity, technology, and off-campus sites. The University commits to continued monitoring of these challenges during its period of continued accreditation. No further reports on this topic are required.

STAFF ACTION: Accept the report focused on diversity, technology, and off-campus programs. No further reports are due. The institution’s next comprehensive evaluation is scheduled for 2010-2011.
STATEMENT OF AFFILIATION STATUS

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
One University Plaza
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-4799

Affiliation Status: Candidate: 0
Member: (1915-)

Nature of Organization

Legal Status: Public
Degrees Awarded: A, B, M, S

Conditions of Affiliation:

Stipulations on Affiliation Status: None

Approval of New Degree Sites: No prior Commission approval required to offer degree programs throughout the service region.

Approval of Distance Education Degrees:

Reports Required:

Other Visits Scheduled:

Summary of Commission Review

Year of Last Comprehensive Evaluation: 2000 - 2001
Year of Admission to AQIP:

Year for Next Comprehensive Evaluation: 2010 - 2011
Year of Next System Appraisal:
Year of Next Reaffirmation of Accreditation:

Date of Last Action: 04/08/2004

Last Modified: 04/08/2004
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