UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATES ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

November 13, 2026

Board of Trustees
The Commission on Colleges and Universities
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033

Dear Members of the Board:

The University Faculty Senates Association of Mississippi represents the faculty senates of the state's public universities, where some 6,000 faculty teach more than 80,000 students. We appreciate the Commission's efforts in updating the *Principles of Accreditation*, and we request that the Commission retain the language of current Standard 10.4, which places with faculty "primary responsibility for the content, quality, and effectiveness of the curriculum." Draft 2 would replace it with programs "designed and revised with faculty input."

Standard 10.4 expresses a principle on which governing boards, administrations, and faculty have long agreed, and which they arrived at through decades of shared experience. The *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities*, which the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges and the American Council on Education each commended to their members in 1966, holds that "the faculty has primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction." The Association of Governing Boards' 2017 *Statement on Shared Governance* affirms that "some responsibilities, especially those related to academic programs, are primarily the province of the faculty." This principle—that experts in a discipline, rather than parties outside it, are best equipped to decide what is studied and taught—safeguards the integrity of learning and protects students from undue influence.

We respectfully urge the Commission to retain the current language of Standard 10.4.

Sincerely,

Prof. Joshua Bernstein (Nov 11, 2026 13:38:47 CST)
Prof. Joshua Bernstein
UFSAM President
University of Southern Mississippi

Prof. Whitney Crow (Nov 11, 2026 13:35:22 CST)
Prof. Whitney Crow
Faculty Senate President
Mississippi State University

Prof. Jianwen J. Crump (Nov 12, 2026 10:20:48 CST)

Prof. Jianwen J. Crump
UFSAM Co-Secretary
Faculty Senate President
Mississippi University for Women

Prof. LaTonzia Evans (Nov 11, 2026 21:25:39 CST)

Prof. LaTonzia Evans
Faculty Senate President
Mississippi Valley State University

Prof. John Lobur (Nov 11, 2026 13:54:40 CST)

Prof. John Lobur
Faculty Senate President
University of Mississippi

Prof. Eric Powell
Faculty Senate President
University of Southern Mississippi

Prof. Jennifer Young Wallace (Nov 11, 2026 13:53:59 CST)

Prof. Jennifer Young Wallace
Faculty Senate President
Jackson State University

Prof. Jonathan Westfall (Nov 11, 2026 13:33:44 CST)

Prof. Jonathan Westfall
UFSAM Vice President
Faculty Senate President
Delta State University

Prof. Logan Wiedenfeld
UFSAM Co-Secretary
Faculty Senate President
Alcorn State University