



5-30-2012

## Dual Degree Program, PhD in Education between the University of Tennessee and the University of Padua (SACSCOC Response-email exchange)

SACSCOC

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## Albrecht, Mary Lewnes

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**From:** Albrecht, Mary Lewnes  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 10:35 AM  
**To:** ssheeley@sacscoc.org  
**Cc:** Martin, Susan D; Wood, Pia Christina; McCallum, Steve; Greenberg, Katherine H; High, Katherine Noel; Hodges, Carolyn R; 'sfeatherston@sacscoc.org'  
**Subject:** RE: Dual degree notification  
**Attachments:** 2012-05-30-SACS-Response.pdf; Convenzione.pdf; 2012-04-13-Padua-SACS-Notification.pdf  
**Importance:** High

Dear Steve -

In May 2012 we received an email from you requesting some clarification on the agreement between the University of Padua and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. On May 20, 2012, we received a letter from Dr. Wheelan requesting the signed agreement. Due to differences between the Padua academic calendar and ours, we only just now received the signed agreement.

Attached for your review is the original substantive change letter (2012-04-13-Padua-SACS-Notification.pdf), the letter we received from Dr. Wheelan (2012-05-30-SACS-Response.pdf), and the signed agreement (Convenzione.pdf).

Please let me know if there is anything else you need.

Sincerely,

*Mary*

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"Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education .... The human mind is our fundamental resource." John F. Kennedy

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**From:** High, Katherine Noel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 02, 2012 1:09 PM  
**To:** [ssheeley@sacscoc.org](mailto:ssheeley@sacscoc.org)  
**Cc:** Albrecht, Mary Lewnes  
**Subject:** FW: Dual degree notification

Hi Steve,

I forwarded your questions to Mary Albrecht, who as you know handles Knoxville SACS issues. Her responses to your questions are below, in green.

Let me know if you have additional questions.

Katie

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**From:** Steven Sheeley [<mailto:ssheeley@sacscoc.org>]

**Sent:** Monday, April 23, 2012 11:16 AM

**To:** High, Katherine Noel

**Subject:** Dual degree notification

Katie,

Hope all is well in Knoxville! I am back in the office (for about a day), and I'm going through my in-box. Looking at your substantive change notification for the dual PhD with Padua, I have a couple of questions.

1. The start date shows as May 9, 2012. Should that be 2013? You're unlikely to receive any response from us for some time, due to the volume of letters that have come in.

Mary Albrecht's response:

**According to the Substantive Change Policy (page 7, dual programs), the time frame for contacting SACS is prior to implementation - Prior Notification Required is marked "Yes." We are notifying you prior to implementation and thought approval was not required. ( The SACS information says "Prior approval required: NO."**

**From our conversation with Steve, we were under the impression that 1) via this letter, we were notifying SACS of the agreement, 2) prior approval was not required for dual programs, 3) a draft copy of the agreement could be sent to show where we were in the process, and 4) once we had a signed copy, we would send as a follow-up. In the Collaborative Academic arrangements policy, top of page 4, Steve specifically said we were to follow Items 1 and 2. Item 2 states, "A copy of the final signed agreement prepared following notification." He left us with the impression that what we could do was send the draft now with the substantive change letter and then follow up once we have the signed final copy.**

**We have been working on this for some time and were operating under the impression we could start a dual degree program prior to SACS approval, hence the May 2012 date. We want to start as soon as possible as there are students wanting the program.**

2. The letter notes that the student will take a minimum of 30 hours at UTK, "which is more than 30 percent of the total credits" required. The policy and the standard (CS 3.6.3) calls for at least one-third. Can you clarify?

**Whoops! Good catch. The students will take a minimum of 30 credit hours from UT out of the 83 credit hours required, which is 36% of the credit hours; regardless, students will earn a minimum of 33% of the credit hours from UT as this is also UT policy.**

3. The copy of the MOU/Framework Agreement looks to be something other than the final signed copy. Perhaps my copy didn't include the signed final copy. If not, though, we'll need a copy of the final signed agreement before approving the program.

See above comment. Based on our conversation, we thought a draft copy was fine since prior approval was not required, just prior notification. This is the notification prior to implementation. Under the column "Prior Approval Required" it states that prior approval is a NO.

Have a great week!

***Steve***

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