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Closure of the Sustainability Science Graduate Certificate Program (SACSCOC Response)

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June 3, 2015

Dr. Mary Lewnes Albrecht
Associate Vice Provost
The University of Tennessee
527 Andy Holt Tower
Knoxville, TN 37996-0152

Dear Dr. Albrecht:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2015, to the Commission regarding the closure of the Graduate Certificate program in Sustainability Science, effective fall 2014.

The 12 semester hour program was started in concert with a National Science Foundation grant. With the close of the grant, the institution opted to discontinue the program. Students were not admitted to the program as of fall 2014, the effective closure date. Students have been informed of the closure and advised that required courses will be offered until all students have completed the program. All students are expected to complete the program as of fall 2015. Faculty and staff are apprised of the closure. Currently enrolled students will experience no disruption to their program of study or time to completion. No additional student expenses are expected as a result of the closure. There are no faculty or staff consequences.

The Commission approves the closure of the Graduate Certificate in Sustainability Science and requests no additional information.

Please note that all program closures require a teach-out plan as part of closure approval. Refer to "Procedure Three" (pp. 21-22) in the *Substantive Change for SACSCOC Accredited Institutions – Policy Statement* for additional information.

Best regards,

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/KWS:efk

cc: Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek, Chancellor
Dr. Steven M. Sheeley