THEC

Tennessee Higher Education Commission

SACSCOC Substantive Change

Dr. Kevin Sightler, Director of Substantive Change
SACSCOC

Tennessee Accreditation Network Inaugural Webinar
November 19, 2020

Welcome

Jeffery Norfleet

Director of Academic Affairs
Tennessee Higher Education Commission

Greetings

Mike Krause

Executive Director
Tennessee Higher Education Commission

Overview of Tennessee Accreditation Network

Stephanie Kolitsch

SACSCOC Liaison and Director of Accreditation
Interim Director of Institutional Research
University of Tennessee, Martin

Patty Flowers

Assessment Coordinator, Research Associate III
University of Tennessee, Martin

Overview of Tennessee Accreditation Network

Identifying the need:

- Recognition that higher education institutions have common issues related to accreditation

- Access to resources somewhat limited

- Cost of regularly attending conferences financially prohibitive for some

- Tennessee institutions needed a way to communicate about Tennessee issues

Overview of Tennessee Accreditation Network

Finding a solution:

- Learned about the Virginia Assessment Group
    - Annual State-wide Meeting
    - Website

- Learned about ACCSHE and ASSESS listservs

- Wanted these types of resources available for Tennessee institutions

Overview of Tennessee Accreditation Network

Finding a solution:

- Pitched the idea to several TN SACSCOC Liaisons; all were interested in participating

- Received traction during UT Martin "Town Hall" meeting with President Randy Boyd and Vice President Linda Martin

- Boyd and Martin took the idea to THEC

- THEC worked with Flowers and Kolitsch to get the TAN started

Overview of Tennessee Accreditation Network

Finding a solution:

- December 2019: State get-together at SACSCOC Annual Meeting to introduce network and get statewide buy-in
- Early spring 2020: Survey of SACSCOC Liaisons to identify specific needs
- Spring 2020: Identified Steering Committee
- Summer/Fall 2020: Steering Committee developed guiding principles, discussed potential TAN-sponsored events; initial webpages developed
- Fall 2020: First official TAN webinar!

Overview of Tennessee Accreditation Network

TAN Steering Committee

- Charlise Anderson, Tennessee State University
- Michele Atkins, Union University
- Diane Berty, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association
- Colette Catania, Volunteer State Community College
- Cheri Clavier, East Tennessee State University
- Lynne Crosby, Austin Peay State University
- Patty Flowers, University of Tennessee at Martin
- Lana Hamilton, Tennessee Board of Regents

- Clayton Hess, Lincoln Memorial University
- Stephanie Kolitsch, University of Tennessee at Martin
- Linda C. Martin, University of Tennessee System
- Pam Moss, Southern College of Optometry
- Jeffery Norfleet, Tennessee Higher Education Commission
- Julie A. Roberts, Tennessee Higher Education Commission
- A. B. White, Freed Hardeman University

Overview of Tennessee Accreditation Network

About TAN

- **Identity Statement**

  The Tennessee Accreditation Network is a group of accreditation liaisons and other higher education professionals dedicated to improving the academic quality, accountability, and self and peer evaluation processes of SACSCOC member institutions across the state.

- **Mission Statement**

  The mission of the Tennessee Accreditation Network is to support the accreditation efforts of Tennessee higher education institutions through the collective knowledge, ongoing experiences, and shared resources of its members.

- **Vision Statement**

  The Tennessee Accreditation Network will be a valuable resource for public and private member institutions as it inspires its members to enhance their knowledge, experience, and service to their respective constituents.

Overview of Tennessee Accreditation Network

About TAN

- **AIMs**

  We, the Tennessee Accreditation Network, will accomplish our mission by

  Aim #1—encouraging continuous improvement in quality and innovation;

  Aim #2—sharing our collective accreditation and assessment expertise through professional development activities, networking, and mentoring;

  Aim #3—sharing institutional resources to include good practices and institutional data and information; and

  Aim #4—providing a discussion forum about accreditation-related topics and a collective voice among the accreditation community.

Overview of Tennessee Accreditation Network

Welcome to the First Official Event Sponsored by the Tennessee Accreditation Network!

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Lynne Crosby

Vice Provost and Associate Vice President
Academic Affairs

Austin Peay State University

Keynote Presentation

Kevin Sightler

Director of Substantive Change
SACSCOC

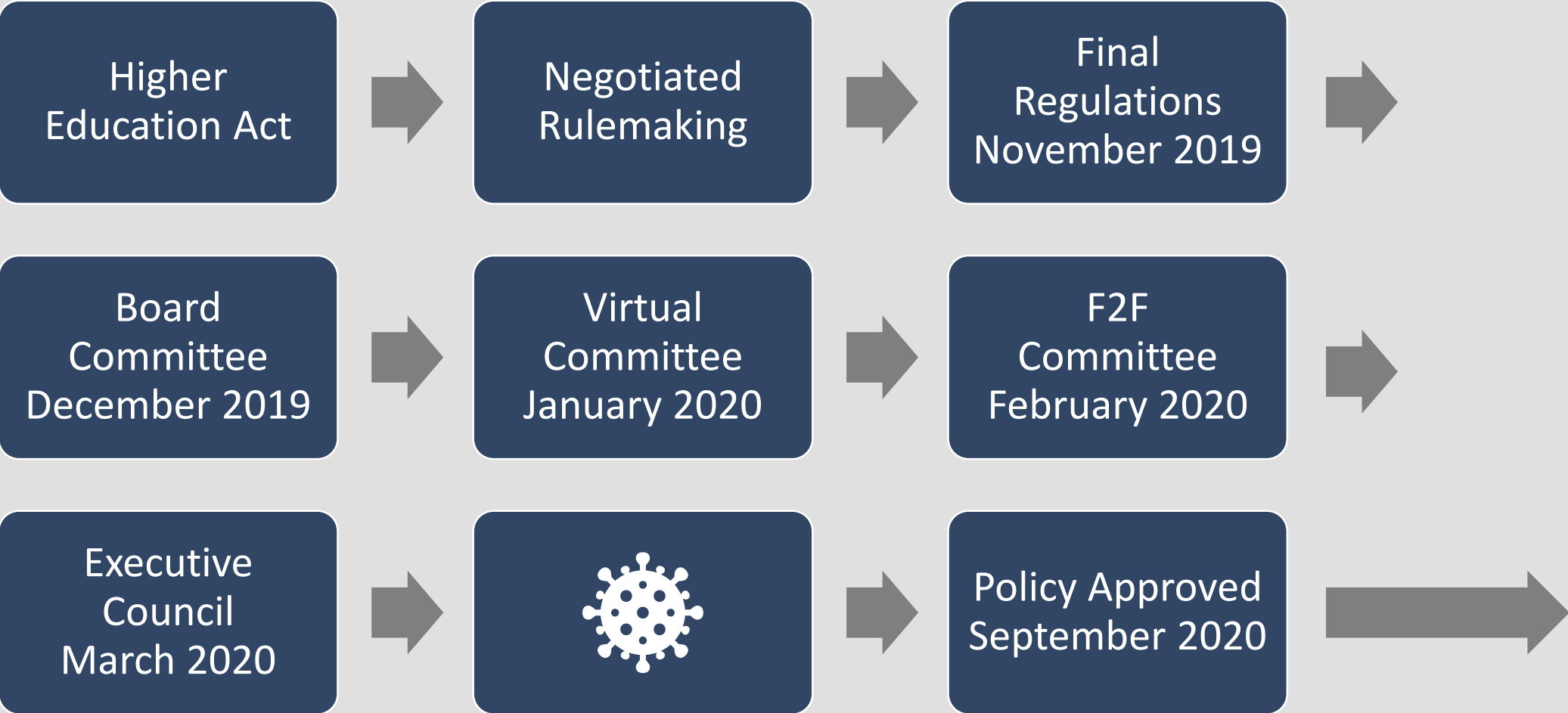# Substantive Change

Tennessee Accreditation Network
November 19, 2020

New
Policy and Procedures: December 2020

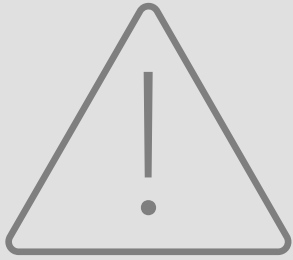Pending SACSCOC
Board of Trustees Approval

- **Topic-specific webinars will begin in January 2021**
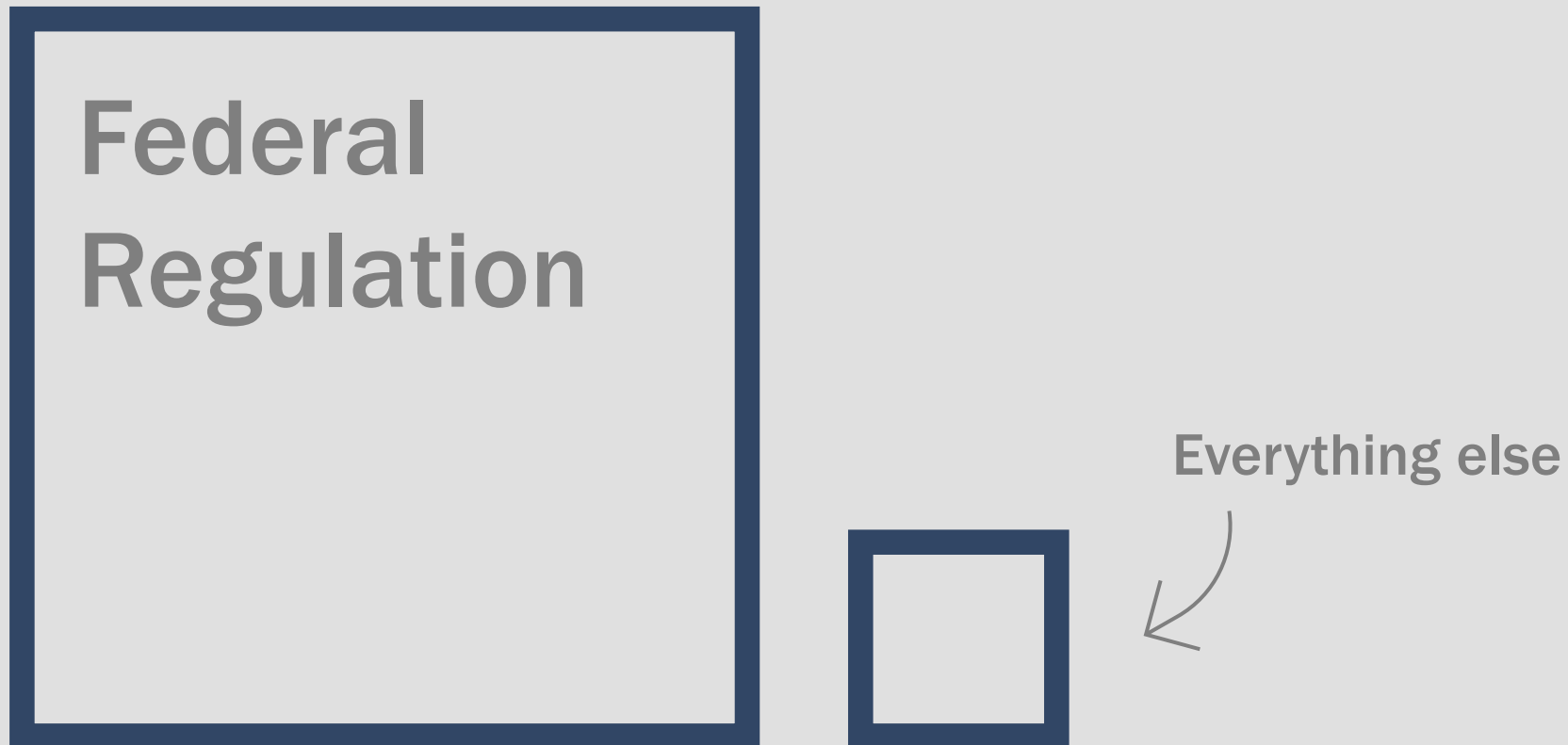- Past webinars will be available until January 2021 only

Change sources:

Federal Regulation

34 CFR Parts 600, 602, 603, 654, 668, and 674

- Long-standing practices never codified
- Clarifications: definitions, quantified thresholds, etc.
- Obsolete practices and language

...

1. New
2. Changed
3. Gone

Summary and highlights only

Not an exhaustive identification and discussion of all policy changes

1. New

Off-campus instructional sites
- Extensive + limited reviews for approval
- At least two by extensive review then others by limited review
- Approvals:
  - Extensive - by Board in June + December
  - Limited – by Exec Council year-around

Significant new notifications regarding programs

- New programs with 25-49% new content
- Adding an additional method of delivery to an existing program:
  - distance education
  - competency-based education
  - face-to-face

Course/credit-based competency-based education

- Requires institutional level review for first program 50% or more (similar to first distance education program approval)
- Thereafter, new program requires notification only (unless it's a significant departure)

Teach-outs and approvals

- Required when ending a completion option:
  - closing a program
  - closing a site
  - ending a program at location
  - ending a method of delivery

Purpose: to ensure students have completion options that minimize disruption + extra costs

Institutional Contingency Teach-out Plan

Required of institutions placed on probation

- A plan should the institution have to close
- Comprehensive
- Teach-out plan for every program, every student
- Does not suggest closure is imminent

Substantive Change Restriction

Adds requirements, limits options, and applies different thresholds for an institution

- on sanction, currently or within prior three years, or
- under provisional certification for participation in federal financial aid programs

2. Changed

New Programs

- Significant departure now defined 50% or more new content exclusive of general education hours

Collaborative Academic Arrangements

Contractual and consortial relationships folded into

- Collaborative Academic Arrangements with two qualifying criteria
- Collaborative Academic Arrangements with Non-Title IV Entities – notification or approval

Program Length Changes
(increase or decrease)

- Adds metric: a change of 25% or more
- Adds second criterion: *and* changes expected time to completion by one term or more

Other changes + clarifications

- Redefined dual academic awards
- Guidance on authorized committee visits to newly approved international off-campus instructional sites
- Programs designed for prior learning
- Mission change

3. Gone

- Degree completion program approval (new programs still subject to approval if a significant departure)
- Separate provisions for sites offering workforce development certificate programs only

Features

- Organized based on institutional changes, not SACSCOC processes
  - Institutional changes
  - Off-campus instructional site changes
  - Program changes
- Designed to be used as an electronic document; printed if necessary

☑ *What to submit*

is provided for each substantive change type and can be copied-and-pasted and used as a template for writing the notification or prospectus

Wrap-Up

Join the Tennessee Accreditation Network:
   Email Julie A. Roberts (Julie.A.Roberts@tn.gov) or
   Jeffery Norfleet (Jeffery.Norfleet@tn.gov) to be added to our
   TAN listserv

Visit our webpages: www.utm.edu/tan

Send suggestions for improving our webpages:
   Email Stephanie Kolitsch (skolitsc@utm.edu) or
   Patty Flowers (pflowers@utm.edu)