## Commission on Colleges Southern Association of Colleges and Schools <u>http://www.sacscoc.org</u>

## Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of AMERICAN INTERCONTINENTAL UNIVERSITY Atlanta, Georgia Issued January 2, 2007, by the Commission on Colleges

The following publicly available information is provided by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Inc. concerning the accreditation of American InterContinental University. Information presented below is in accord with the Commission's disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to American InterContinental University.

The Commission on Colleges' action on American InterContinental University took place on December 11, 2006, and the institution's next review is December 2007.

What is the accreditation status of American InterContinental University? American InterContinental University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges; however, the institution has been continued on Probation for twelve months following review of a Monitoring Report and the report of a Special Committee authorized by the Commission in December 2005. The Commission's accreditation includes all components of the institution—all programs, branch campuses, off-campus sites, and distance learning programs as reported to the Commission; thus, the Probation status applies to the entire institution. Prior to the institution's next review by the Commission in December 2007, a Special Committee will conduct an on-site evaluation of its compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*—the accreditation standards of the Commission.

What does Probation mean? Probation is the Commission's most serious sanction, short of loss of membership, and can be imposed on an institution for failure to correct deficiencies of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements or the Comprehensive Standards of the *Principles of Accreditation* of the Commission, failure to make timely and significant progress toward correcting the deficiencies, or failure to comply with Commission policies and procedures. The imposition of Probation is an indication of the gravity of non-compliance with the *Principles*. Probation may be imposed upon initial institutional review, depending on the judgment of the Commission of the seriousness of the non-compliance or in the case of repeated violations recognized by the Commission over a period of time. The maximum consecutive time that an institution may be on Probation is two years. American InterContinental University will conclude a two-year period on Probation in December 2007. For additional information about sanctions, see page two of the Commission's policy entitled "Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership" (http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/Sanction.pdf ).

Why was American InterContinental University continued on Probation? American InterContinental University was continued on Probation because the Commission determined that it failed to demonstrate compliance with Section 1 (Integrity), Core Requirement 2.7.2 (Program Content), Core Requirement 2.8 (Faculty), Comprehensive Standard 3.2.8 (Governance and Administration), Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1 (Institutional Effectiveness), Comprehensive Standard 3.4.4 (Educational Programs), Comprehensive Standard 3.4.5 (Educational Programs), and Comprehensive Standard 3.5.1 (Educational Programs-Undergraduate) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. These standards expect an institution to provide evidence that it (1) has integrity in all its operations; (2) offers degree programs that embody a coherent course of study and are compatible with the institution's purpose; (3) has an adequate number of full-time faculty to support the mission of the institution; (4) has qualified administrative and academic officers; (5) identifies and assesses educational programs and administrative and educational support services; (6) has a defined and published policy for awarding credit and has other academic policies that adhere to principles of good educational practice; and (7) identifies and evaluates the attainment of college-level competencies within the general education core. (To read the full statement for the standards cited above, access the *Principles of Accreditation* at <a href="http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/PrinciplesofAccreditation.PDF">http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/PrinciplesofAccreditation.PDF</a>.)

What will happen in December 2007? The Commission will again consider the accreditation status of American InterContinental University following review of a Second Monitoring Report submitted by the institution addressing the areas cited for non-compliance and review of the report of a Special Committee that will visit the institution in fall 2007. The Commission will have the following options: (1) remove Probation without an additional monitoring report or (2) remove the institution's accreditation. For additional information, access <a href="http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/Sanction.pdf">http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/Sanction.pdf</a> (p. 3). Commission staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the Commission in December 2007.

For additional information regarding the Commission's accreditation process, access the *Principles of Accreditation* (<u>http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/PrinciplesofAccreditation.PDF</u>).