North Carolina
A&T State University

The University
of North Carolina
at Greensboro

November 20, 2008

Dr. Belle Wheelan
President
Commission on Colleges, SACS
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

In accordance with the Commission's policy on substantive change, we are writing to inform you about the new Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering (JSNN) of North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University (A&T) and The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG). We would greatly appreciate receiving your guidance regarding the next steps for seeking SACS-COC authorization for JSNN, its respective degree programs, and affiliated activities.

The North Carolina General Assembly has apportioned funds for the creation of the JSNN. The funding includes $50 million to build the JSNN facilities and $8 million for capital equipment for JSNN as well as recurring funding. JSNN will focus on research and education in the nanoscience and nanoengineering fields. The strengths of the two universities in the basic sciences make them ideal partners in this interdisciplinary program. The intent of the school is to become a world-class educational and technical institution and also to become an engine for economic growth in the Triad and North Carolina as a whole. The global market for nanotechnology products and services is predicted to increase by 18-28 percent annually for the next several years (BCC Research, Inc.) and is expected to reach $2.6 trillion by 2014 (Lux Research), showing the potential for strong growth in this sector of the economy.

The availability of trained professionals in nanoscience will be a critical enabler for growth in this field and, with this mind, degree programs have been created. *A Professional Master of Science in Nanoscience* degree and a *Ph.D in Nanoscience* degree are now in the review process by A&T and UNCG. The JSNN degree programs will train scientists in various nanosciences such as nanomaterials, drug design and delivery, genetic screening, biosensors, biotechnology, surface engineering, energy, environmental improvement, agricultural enhancement, and toxicology. The research conducted by faculty affiliated with the School will have high potential for technology transfer to

pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and nanotechnology companies in North Carolina.

In addition to the development of new academic programs, the programming process for the JSNN facility has been initiated. The facility will be located on the South Joint Millennium Campus (on land that was originally part of the NC A&T farm), established as part of the Greensboro Center for Innovative Development, a collaborative initiative between the two universities. It is our goal to complete the facility in the 2010–2011 timeframe. The hiring process for the program has been started and will include 12 JSNN faculty.

Please note that both A&T and UNCG are part of the UNC system and are accredited by SACS. Also both universities currently offer degree programs (masters and doctoral) at the level sought for JSNN.

Please advise us of additional information SACS requires.

Sincerely,

David H. Perrin
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
for Academic Affairs
University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Alton Thompson
Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor

North Carolina A&T State University

Enclosure

MCD & LEW

c: Chancellor Stanley F. Battle, A&T
Chancellor Linda P. Brady, UNCG
Dean James G. Ryan, JSNN
Dean William J. Craft, Graduate Studies, A&T
Dean Jim Petersen, Graduate School, UNCG
Dr. Tom Benberg, SACS Commission on Colleges
Dr. Marsal P. Stoll, SACS Commission on Colleges