May 27, 2013

Dr. Belle Wheelan  
President  
Commission on Colleges  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, Georgia 30033

Dear President Wheelan:

Consistent with the 2013 changes to SASCOC Substantive Change Policy, we send this Letter of Notification informing the SACSCOC of the new Aerospace Consortium of Alabama.

The mission of the Aerospace Consortium of Alabama (ACA) is to serve the aerospace industry and the State of Alabama by producing a skilled, professional workforce through graduate level education and collaboration with industrial and government partners in performing cutting-edge research at a level that would not be possible through the individual efforts of participating institutions.

To facilitate and accomplish this mission, Auburn University, the University of Alabama Huntsville (UAH) and The University of Alabama (UA) have formed this ACA. Students and faculty at all three campuses will share resources and specialized equipment on the campuses of other member institutions. The three institutions will continue to offer separate degrees, but allow students, through appropriate formal means, to access course offerings, seminars, and laboratory facilities at the other campuses. The ACA will provide the mechanism for faculty to serve on graduate committees at other member institutions. As a result, aerospace engineering students will have the best possible mentorship and advising that the State of Alabama can offer for their graduate education and research. Furthermore, the establishment of the ACA will enable training opportunities for member institutions by providing a process for efficient submission of large multi-investigator proposals to federal funding agencies and enhance capability for partnering with corporate entities. Finally, the ACA will be leveraging the aerospace assets of the entire state, which will enable it to compete effectively regionally, nationally and internationally.
Thank you for accepting this Letter of Notification and acknowledging the existence of this consortium within The University of Alabama.

Sincerely,

Judy Bonner
President

cc: Dr. Robin Hoffman, SACS Vice President
    Dr. Joe Benson, Interim Provost, UA
    Dr. Chuck Karr, Dean, College of Engineering, UA
    Dr. David Francko, Dean, Graduate School, UA
    Dr. Bob Smallwood, SACS Liaison