

Campus community,

Many of you may have read or heard recent reports regarding Morehead State University's status with the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM) and the potential impact it may have on our students and institution. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you the information we know.

MSU became aware of an issue with its current status with SACM during the first week of April. In response, we have initiated a series of meetings with appropriate staff and students and have reached out to SACM for further clarification. We believe the institution has been identified as a point of "saturation" for students from Saudi Arabia, an issue monitored closely by SACM and the Ministry of Higher Education.

"Saturation issues" refer to the number of Saudi Arabian students enrolled at any given university and their particular areas of study. If SACM believes the Saudi population at an institution is too high, or if they believe too many students at one university are enrolled in the same discipline, it may forgo scholarship funding to those schools.

It is our hope that students from Saudi Arabia currently enrolled at MSU may continue their education here. The current saturation issues would only prevent new students in the sponsored program from being admitted.

We have learned that as early as February 2016 there were national reports regarding the intent of SACM to begin limiting enrollment due to the economic issues created by the downturn in oil production and prices. For example, all universities in Colorado and Florida also received similar notifications regarding SACM enrollment, but exceptions for a number of universities have been made since the initial ruling.

We remain committed to our international students, faculty, and staff population. Diversity and inclusion are core values of Morehead State University, and as such, we are working diligently to address this matter with SACM, and we expect to fashion a resolution soon.

I will keep the community informed as we learn more.

Steven M. Ralston
Provost