



## Middle States Commission on Higher Education

3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 Tel: 267-284-5000 [www.msche.org](http://www.msche.org)

Mr. Eric Eaton  
Acting President & Chief Executive Officer  
1620 L Street NW  
7th Floor  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Eaton:

On behalf of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, I am writing to inform you that on September 19, 2019, the Commission acted as follows:

To acknowledge receipt of the supplemental information report. To note that the report provided limited responses to requested information and did not present evidence and analysis in a manner conducive to Commission review.

To require the institution to show cause, by October 4, 2019, to demonstrate why its accreditation should not be withdrawn because of insufficient evidence that the institution is in compliance with Requirements of Affiliation 12 and 14, Standard II (Ethics and Integrity) and Standard VII (Governance, Leadership, and Administration). To note that the institution remains accredited while on show cause. To note further that federal regulations limit the period during which an institution may be in non-compliance to two years.

To require a show cause report, due October 4, 2019, documenting evidence that the institution has achieved and can sustain ongoing compliance with the Commission's standards, requirements, policies and procedures, and federal compliance requirements. The show cause report must include evidence that (1) the institution's governing body is responsible for the quality and integrity of the institution and for ensuring that the institution's mission is being accomplished (Requirement of Affiliation 12), (2) the governing body ensures that it and the institution make freely available to the Commission accurate, fair, and complete information on all aspects of the institution and its operations and describes itself in identical terms to all its accrediting and regulatory agencies, communicates any changes in accredited status, and agrees to disclose information required by the Commission to carry out its accrediting responsibilities (Requirement of Affiliation 14), (3) the institution is representing itself truthfully and disclosing information in a

timely and accurate fashion (Standard II), and (4) the governing body is ultimately accountable for the academic quality, planning, and fiscal well-being of the institution (Standard VII).

To also request that the institution complete and submit for approval, by October 4, 2019, a comprehensive, implementable teach-out plan (Teach-Out Plans and Agreements Policy and Procedures). In accordance with Commission policy and federal regulations, the teach-out plan must provide for the equitable treatment of students to complete their education, if the Commission were to withdraw accreditation, and include any teach-out agreements that the institution has entered into or intends to enter into with another institution.

To remind the institution of its obligation to inform the Commission about any potential substantive change (Substantive Change Policy and Procedures). To note that the Commission reserves the right to rescind any Commission actions if developments reveal additional information that might have affected the Commission's decision (Accreditation Actions Policy and Procedures).

To direct an on-site show cause visit following submission of the report. The purpose of the on-site show cause visit is to verify the information provided in the show cause report and the institution's ongoing and sustainable compliance with the Commission's standards, requirements, policies and procedures, and federal compliance requirements.

To direct a prompt Commission liaison guidance visit to discuss the Commission's expectations. To note that the institution will be invited to appear before the Commission when it meets to consider the institution's show cause report. The date of the next evaluation will be determined upon reaffirmation of accreditation.

This action is a non-compliance action and includes a request for a show cause report, an on-site show cause team visit, and a teach-out plan. An explanation of this type of action is provided in the Commission's *Accreditation Actions Policy and Procedures*. If any of the information contained within the action appears to be factually incorrect, please send an email within 60 calendar days of the date of the action to [actions@msche.org](mailto:actions@msche.org).

Pursuant to the Commission's *Communication in the Accreditation Process Policy and Procedures*, this letter serves as the Commission's official notification of this action. This accreditation action will be publicly available on the Commission's website within 24 hours of informing the institution. In accordance with policy and federal regulation, the Commission provides notification of non-compliance actions to the United States Secretary of Education, the appropriate state or other licensing or authorizing agency, and the appropriate accrediting agencies at the same time it notifies the institution, but no later than 30 days after it takes the action.

Commission policy and procedures allow for the submission of an optional institutional statement, which will be posted on the Commission's website, in response to the above non-compliance action. Any institutional statement must be on institutional letterhead, signed by an authorized representative of the institution, and submitted as a PDF document. Because the institutional statement will be posted publicly, it is important that the institutional statement address the accreditation issue and avoid issues that are not relevant to the action. Hyperlinks are not permitted to be used. The submission of an optional institutional statement must be sent to [actions@msche.org](mailto:actions@msche.org) within 60 calendar days from the date of the action.

The institution is invited to appear before the Commission when the Commission meets to consider the institution's show cause report. The [Show Cause Appearance Before the Commission Prior to Withdrawal of Accreditation](#) describes the procedures. Please note that the institution is required to inform the Commission of its intent to appear before the Commission at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the Commission meeting at which the adverse action will be considered. Additional communications will be sent from the President's Office relating to this process.

The following resources provide additional information that may be helpful to understanding the Commission's actions and the institution's accreditation status:

[\*Accreditation Actions Policy and Procedures\*](#)

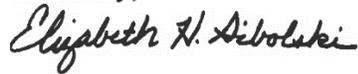
[\*Accreditation Review Cycle and Monitoring Policy and Procedures\*](#)

[\*Communication in the Accreditation Process Policy and Procedures\*](#)

[\*Teach-Out Plan and Agreements Policy and Procedures\*](#)

For questions about the Commission's actions, please contact the institution's assigned Commission staff liaison. Questions from the public about the institution's accreditation phase or accreditation status can be directed to [communications@msche.org](mailto:communications@msche.org).

Sincerely,



Elizabeth H. Sibolski, Ph.D.  
President