



## Middle States Commission on Higher Education

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

June 28, 2019

Dr. Jonathan C Gibralter  
President  
Wells College  
PO Box 500  
Aurora, NY 13026-0500

Dear Dr. Gibralter:

On behalf of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, I am writing to inform you that on June 27, 2019, the Commission acted as follows:

To acknowledge receipt of the self-study report. To note the visit by the Commission's representatives. To place the institution on probation and note that the institution's accreditation is in jeopardy because of insufficient evidence that the institution is currently in compliance with Standard VI (Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement) and Requirement of Affiliation 11. To note that the institution remains accredited while on probation. To note further that federal regulations limit the period during which an institution may be in non-compliance to two years.

To request a monitoring report due, December 1, 2019, demonstrating evidence that the institution has achieved and can sustain ongoing compliance with Standard VI and Requirement of Affiliation 11, including but not limited to (1) financial planning and budget processes that are aligned with mission, goals and objectives and are evidence-based (Standard VI); and (2) adequate fiscal and human resources, including physical and technical infrastructure, to support operations (Standard VI and Requirement of Affiliation 11). To request that the monitoring report also address further evidence of a governing body that plays a basic policy-making role in financial affairs to ensure integrity and strong financial management (Standard VII).

To require that the institution complete and submit for approval by December 1, 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 signed, teach-out agreements that the institution has entered into or intends to enter into with another institution.

To direct a follow-up team visit following submission of the monitoring report. To direct a prompt Commission liaison guidance visit to discuss the Commission's expectations. Upon reaffirmation of accreditation, the next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2026-2027.

This action is a non-compliance action and includes a request for a monitoring report, follow-up 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* and *Teach-Out Plans and Agreements 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 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\*](#)

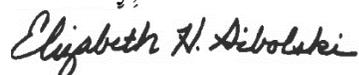
[\*Accreditation Review Cycle and Monitoring Policy and Procedures\*](#)

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

[\*Teach-out Plans 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