March 10, 2014

Dr. Jacqueline Chanda, President
Kansas City Art Institute
4415 Warwick Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64111-1874

Dear President Chanda:

This letter is formal notification of action taken concerning Kansas City Art Institute ("the Institute") by the Higher Learning Commission Board of Trustees ("the Board"). At its meeting on February 27, 2014, the Board removed the sanction of Notice from the Institute. The Board determined that the removal of the sanction was warranted based on evidence provided by the Institute, including the Notice Report, the report of the visiting team, the staff analysis of the sanction, and the Institute’s responses to these reports. In addition, the Board maintained the placement of the Institute on the Standard Pathway. The Institute will host a review for Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2016-17.

The Board based its actions on the following findings made with regard to the Institute:

Kansas City Art Institute ("the Institute") has demonstrated that it has resolved the Commission’s concerns related to 2005 Criteria for Accreditation Criterion Two, “the institution’s allocation of resources and its processes for evaluation and planning demonstrate its capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its education, and respond to future challenges and opportunities,” particularly Core Component 2.d, “all levels of planning align with the institution’s mission, thereby enhancing its capacity to fulfill that mission,” for the following reasons:

- the Institute has articulated clear learning goals, aligned those goals with assessments, and aggregated data to develop program-level reports;
- the President of the Institute has established an Institutional Effectiveness program by which both academic and administrative units use established report forms to demonstrate their effectiveness in planning, assessment, and the use of results to improve academic programs and services that sustain the core activities of the Institute; and
- the Institute had demonstrated a practice of reviewing budget requests and making resource allocations based on strategic priorities and a knowledge of assessment results.
The Institute has demonstrated that it has resolved the Commission’s concerns related to 2005 Criteria for Accreditation Criterion Three, “the institution provides evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission,” particularly Core Component 3.a, “the institution’s goals for student learning outcomes are clearly stated for each educational program and make effective assessment possible,” for the following reasons:

- the faculty has clearly articulated student learning outcomes for all degree programs, the Community Arts and Service Learning program, and the certificate;
- the faculty has identified sources of data for each student learning outcome described, parties responsible for data collection in each case, timing for data collection, and discipline-specific scoring rubrics;
- the Institute has produced meaningful reports at the program level based on appropriate assessment data, enabling it to identify strengths and weaknesses and to make changes to its programs based on the trends identified; and
- the Institute has completed two cycles of data collection, analysis, and program changes for every program.

The Institute has demonstrated that it has addressed the Commission’s concerns related to 2005 Criteria for Accreditation Criterion Four, “the institution promotes a life of learning for its faculty, administration, staff, and students by fostering and supporting inquiry, creativity, practice, and social responsibility in ways consistent with its mission,” particularly Core Component 4.c, “the institution assesses the usefulness of its curricula to students who will live and work in a global, diverse, and technological society,” for the following reason:

- the Institute assesses the effectiveness and usefulness of its curricula through a combination of comprehensive program review, completed every five years, along with external feedback from students and alumni through periodic student and alumni satisfaction surveys.

The Board action resulted in changes to the affiliation of the Institute determined by the Board. These changes are reflected on the Statement of Affiliation Status (SAS). Some of the information from the SAS, such as the dates of the last and next comprehensive evaluation visits, will be posted to the Commission’s website along with information from the Organizational Profile (OP).

Information about notifying the public of this action is available at http://ncahlc.org/Information-for-Institutions/institutional-reporting-of-actions.html. In addition, Commission policy COMM.A.10.010, Commission Public Notices and Statements, requires that the Commission prepare a summary of actions to be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations, and published on its website. The summary will include the Commission Board action regarding the Institute. The Institute may choose to prepare a statement to its constituencies regarding this action; I ask that you copy Dr. Solomon on any such communication.
On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you and your associates for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Manning
President

cc: Bambi Burgard, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas City Art Institute
Anthea M. Sweeney, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission
Karen J. Solomon, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission
Karen L. Solinski, Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs, Higher Learning Commission
Charles J. Mula, Accreditation and State Liaison, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education