



March 3, 2023

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Dr. Rebecca Sherrick
President
Aurora University
347 S. Gladstone Ave.
Aurora, IL 60506-4892

Dear President Sherrick:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Aurora University (the institution) by the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) at its meeting on February 28, 2023. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with HLC.

Action with Interim Monitoring. IAC continued the accreditation of Aurora University with the next Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2032-33. In conjunction with this action, IAC required the following interim monitoring.

Interim Report. An Interim Report due 8/15/24 on faculty qualifications.

Further, IAC voted to change the team's evaluation of criterion 2.A from "Met with Concerns" to "Met" and change the team's evaluation of criterion 3.C from "Met" to "Met with Concerns" with the following evidence:

IAC determined that the team's concern with faculty qualifications is related to 3.C. The institution has already implemented a number of improvements to its faculty qualifications processes suggesting that they have already corrected the record keeping issues. These include clarifications about approval process for Equivalent Experience, the inclusion of printed transcripts that have been stored as verified electronic records, the inclusion of a printed current curriculum vitae in all faculty files, the centralized housing of all faculty files in Academic Affairs, and an annual summer audit of all faculty files for completeness.

Rationale: The institution provided evidence in its response that the "Met with Concern" is related to 3.C wherein faculty qualifications are addressed (3.C.3). The stated concern is viewed by the IAC as an issue with record keeping that involves documents that are sometimes electronic and sometimes paper and that are spread across multiple offices and administrators. This decentralized system for record keeping resulted in the institutions' inability to present records in an accessible manner to the visiting team. This further resulted in the visiting team's inability to confirm faculty qualifications.

In taking this action, the IAC considered materials from the most recent evaluation and the institutional response (if applicable) to the evaluation findings.

In two weeks, this action will be added to the *Institutional Status and Requirements (ISR) Report*, a resource for the institution to review and manage information regarding its accreditation relationship. Chief Executive Officers and Accreditation Liaison Officers may download the ISR Report in Canopy at <https://canopy.hlcommission.org>.

Within the next 30 days, HLC will also publish information about this action on its website at <https://www.hlcommission.org/Student-Resources/recent-actions>.

If you have any questions about these documents after viewing them, please contact the institution's staff liaison, Jamie Stanesa. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Gellman-Danley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

cc: Matthew Dabros, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Jamie Stanesa, HLC Staff Liaison