



November 15, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Rachel Lindsey, Interim President
Chicago State University
9501 S. King Dr.
ADM 313
Chicago, IL 60628

Dear President Lindsey:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (“HLC” or “the Commission”) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Chicago State University (“the University” or “the institution”). During its meeting on November 2-3, 2017, the Board removed the sanction of Notice from the University. This action is effective as of the date the action was taken. The Board determined that the removal of the sanction was warranted based on evidence provided by the University, including the Assurance Filing submitted by the University, the report of the comprehensive evaluation team, the staff analysis of the sanction, the Advisory Visit report submitted by the University, the report of the Advisory Visit team, and the University’s responses to these reports.

The Board maintained the University on the Standard Pathway with its next comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation to take place in 2022-23.

The Board based its action on the following findings made with regard to the University:

The University now meets Criterion Five, Core Component 5.A, “the institution’s resource base supports its current educational programs and its plans for maintaining and strengthening their quality in the future,” for the following reasons:

- The University has made improvements in its financial position including:
 - As of December 9, 2016, the Board of Trustees of the University approved a resolution to end its financial exigency;
 - The University has utilized data-based decision making to pursue efforts to reduce expenditures, increase revenues and reduce its dependency on state resources;
 - The University has undertaken a wide range of approaches to accomplish these goals beyond reducing staff, including discontinuing low-enrolled or low-producing courses and programs, reallocating funds through the budgeting process, pursuing new revenue sources such as renting of the facilities, writing new grants, fundraising, engaging alumni and strategically growing enrollment;

- The University's first quarter FY 2017 operating expenditures were 37% below its first quarter FY 2016 level; and
- The HLC peer review team verified that the University's fiscal resources are reliable through FY 2018.
- The State of Illinois passed a comprehensive state budget in early July 2017 and the University provided additional evidence indicating that the new appropriations are adequate to support the remainder of FY 2017 as well as FY 2018, with sufficient MAP funding for FY 2017 and FY 2018; and
- The University has provided sufficient evidence of comprehensive, systematic and inclusive planning.

The University now meets Criterion Five, Core Component 5.C, "the institution engages in systematic and integrated planning," for the following reasons:

- The University has sufficiently clarified and distinguished the roles of the Management Action Committee and University Advisory Committee, both of which held key deliberation and decision-making responsibility in the immediate aftermath of the University's declaration of financial exigency;
- The University's Enrollment Management division is headed by an Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management with responsibility for oversight of operations and activities related to strategic planning and evaluation of enrollment, recruitment and retention services;
- The University has developed an Enrollment Management plan that lists strategies to increase enrollment of first-time, full-time freshmen and transfer students, while increasing scholarship and recruitment efforts;
- An Enrollment, Retention and Graduation Committee coordinates efforts to assess progress toward strategic goals on enrollment, retention and graduation;
- The University's Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research collects, analyzes and publishes information on enrollment trends, retention, persistence and graduation rates by college, program and demographics; and
- The University's planning also takes into account impacts on academic programs based on enrollment changes and workforce demands, and includes appropriate consideration of program discontinuation when necessary.

The University is no longer at risk of being out of compliance and is otherwise in compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation.

The Board action resulted in changes to the affiliation of the University. These changes are reflected on the Institutional Status and Requirements Report. Some of the information on that document, such as the dates of the last and next comprehensive evaluation visits, will be posted to the HLC website.

Information is provided to members of the public and to other constituents in several ways. Commission policy INST.G.10.010, Management of Commission Information, anticipates that HLC will release action letters to members of the public. The Commission will do so by posting this action letter to its website. Also, the enclosed Public Disclosure Notice will be posted to HLC's website not more than 24 hours after this letter is sent to you.

In addition, Commission policy COMM.A.10.010, Commission Public Notices and Statements, requires that HLC 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 HLC Board action regarding the University.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you and your associates for your cooperation. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact your HLC Staff Liaison, Dr. Anthea Sweeney.

Sincerely,



Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

Enclosure: Public Disclosure Notice

Cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Chicago State University
Angela Henderson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Chicago State University
Evaluation team chair
Advisory Visit team chair
Stephanie Bernoteit, Senior Associate Director, Academic Affairs, Illinois Board of Higher Education
Anthea Sweeney, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission
Karen Peterson Solinski, Executive Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs, Higher Learning Commission