



November 7, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Ivan Filby, President  
Greenville University  
315 E. College Ave.  
Greenville, IL 62246

Dear President Filby:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Greenville University (“the Institution”). This action is effective as of the date the Board acted, November 1, 2018. In taking this action, the Board considered materials from the recent Notice Evaluation, including, but not limited to: the Notice Report, the report from the Notice Evaluation team, the Staff Analysis of the Notice report, and the institutional responses to these reports.

**Summary of the Action:** The Board determined that the Institution is no longer at risk of noncompliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and removed the Institution from Notice. The Board also approved the Institution’s substantive change request to offer the Master of Science in Management and the Master of Business Administration.

### **Board Rationale**

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

The Institution now meets without concerns Criterion Three, Core Component 3.A, “the institution’s degree programs are appropriate to higher education,” for the following reasons:

- The Notice evaluation team reviewed many documents and confirmed a number of important changes that address Core Component 3.A toward Greenville’s establishment of a culture of graduate education, including budget and planning documents and due attention to faculty credentials. Important structural changes included the appointments of a Dean of Adult and Graduate Studies, a Graduate Programs Administrator, and the reconstitution of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee.
- As part of its charge, the Notice evaluation team also recommended approval of Greenville’s program change requests to replace its former MS in Management Practice with two offerings: a MS in Management and a Master of Business Administration. The team also confirmed that Greenville currently holds candidacy status toward the programmatic accreditation of these two programs. It should be noted that Greenville’s

graduate business degree was a central focus in the reaffirmation team's original finding that Core Component 3.A was met with concerns.

The Institution now meets without concerns Criterion Four, Core Component 4.B, "the institution demonstrates a commitment to educational achievement and improvement through ongoing assessment of student learning," for the following reasons:

- The Notice evaluation team confirmed a number of substantive changes with respect to Greenville's assessment practices, including the documentation of student learning outcomes for most of the Institution's degree programs.
- The Institution's assessment plan is largely complete, with all academic and cocurricular programs scheduled for regular assessments.
- Important structural changes include the appointments of a Director of Assessment and an Assessment Specialist.

The Institution now meets without concerns 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:

- Enrollment-related improvements include an increase in student applications and acceptances, including international applications, a 10% increase in campus visits, a significant increase in fall-to-fall retention to 71.4% from the Institution's 2014 historic low rate of 64.9%, and slight increases in graduate business program enrollments.
- The Institution has experienced an impressive turn-around in its financial health since its comprehensive visit, which is the result of a combination of a qualified finance and advancement staff, improved enrollments and fundraising, reduced expenses, and the reallocation of savings and borrowed funds to institutional priorities.

The Institution now meets without concerns Criterion Five, Core Component 5.C, "the institution engages in systematic and integrated planning," for the following reasons:

- Greenville's improvements are set against the backdrop of a comprehensive and integrated strategic plan; this plan is a notable departure from the institution's largely unorganized efforts of the past.
- New and reallocated budget resources are now directly linked to institutional priorities as noted in the strategic plan.

The Institution has otherwise demonstrated that it is in compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation, Assumed Practices, and Federal Compliance Requirements and is no longer at risk of being out of compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation, and thus should be removed from Notice.

### **Next Steps in the HLC Review Process**

**Comprehensive Evaluation:** The Institution has been maintained on the Standard Pathway with its next comprehensive evaluation (Year 4) in 2019-20.

### HLC Disclosure Obligations

The Board action resulted in changes that will be reflected in the Institution's Statement of Accreditation Status as well as the Institutional Status and Requirements Report. The Statement of Accreditation Status, including the dates of the last and next comprehensive evaluation visits, will be posted to the HLC website.

Information about this action is provided to members of the public and to other constituents in several ways. In accordance with HLC policy,<sup>1</sup> this Action Letter and the enclosed Public Disclosure Notice will be posted to HLC's website not more than 24 hours after this letter is sent to the Institution.

HLC policy<sup>2</sup> requires that a summary of Board actions be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations. It also will be published on HLC's website. The summary will include this HLC action regarding the Institution.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact your HLC Staff Liaison, Dr. John Marr.

Sincerely,



Barbara Gellman-Danley  
President

Enc: Public Disclosure Notice

Cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Greenville University  
Christina Smerick, Dean of Instruction, Greenville University  
Evaluation Team Chair  
Stephanie Bernoteit, Deputy Director for Academic Affairs, Illinois Board of Higher Education  
John Marr, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission  
Anthea Sweeney, Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs, Higher Learning Commission

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<sup>1</sup> INST.G.10.010, Management of Commission Information

<sup>2</sup> COMM.A.10.010, Commission Public Notices and Statements