



November 11, 2020

BY CERTIFIED MAIL

Dr. Greg Mosier, President  
Kansas City Kansas Community College  
7250 State Ave.  
Kansas City, KS 66112

Dear President Mosier:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Kansas City Kansas Community College (“the Institution”). This action is effective as of the date the Board acted, November 5, 2020. In taking this action, the Board considered materials from the most recent comprehensive evaluation, including, but not limited to: the Assurance Filing the Institution submitted, the report from the comprehensive evaluation team, the report of the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) Hearing Committee, and the institutional responses to these reports.

**Summary of the Action:** The Institution has been placed on Probation because it is out of compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation. The Institution meets Core Components 3.A, 5.C, and 5.D with concerns. The Institution does not meet Core Components 4.A and 4.B. The Institution is required to host a comprehensive evaluation no later than April 2022 to determine whether the Institution has ameliorated the findings that led to the imposition of the sanction.

**Institutional Disclosure Obligation:** HLC policy<sup>1</sup> requires that an institution inform its constituencies, including Board members, administrators, faculty, staff, students, prospective students, and any other constituencies about the sanction and how to contact HLC for further information. The policy also requires that an institution on sanction disclose this status whenever it refers to its HLC accreditation. HLC will monitor these disclosures to ensure they are accurate and in keeping with HLC policy. The institution must submit drafts of its planned disclosures to these various audiences to its HLC Staff Liaison in advance of transmission and provide the staff liaison with a link to relevant information on its website. At a minimum, an institution must: i) provide a copy of this Action Letter to its governing board, administration, and faculty, ii) provide a copy of the enclosed Public Disclosure Notice to its currently enrolled students, and iii) prominently display the Mark of Affiliation where accreditation status is described on its website. Once disclosures have been made, the institution must submit copies of its disclosure documents as a single .pdf file to [www.hlcommission.org/upload](http://www.hlcommission.org/upload) (by selecting “Information about Institutional Disclosures”) no later

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<sup>1</sup> INST.E.20.010, Probation.

than seven (7) business days following receipt of this Action Letter. HLC will retain this information as part of the institution's record.

**Provisional Plan:** HLC policy also requires that the Institution file a Provisional Plan with HLC for review and approval by the Institutional Actions Council according to HLC's substantive change procedures. This Provisional Plan must comport with HLC's requirements for Provisional Plans.<sup>2</sup> The Institution must submit its Provisional Plan no later than spring 2021.

**Substantive Change:** HLC policy<sup>3</sup> states that while an institution may file one or more applications for substantive change during the probation period, such applications will be subject to strict scrutiny and are likely to be denied or deferred until after the probationary period. HLC policy also requires that an institution placed on Probation be subject to additional requirements for substantive change during the probationary period and for three (3) years following the removal of Probation.<sup>4</sup>

**Notification Program:** HLC policy<sup>5</sup> states that the Institution is now ineligible for the Notification Program for Additional Locations until it has completed ten (10) years in good standing as required for access.

### **Board Rationale**

The Board based its action on the following findings made with regard to the Institution as well as the entire record before the Board:

The Institution meets, but with concerns, Criterion Three, Core Component 3.A, "the institution's degree programs are appropriate to higher education," for the following reason:

- There are significant gaps in faculty understanding of and engagement in critical matters of curriculum oversight, including management of the general education program and program review.

The Institution does not meet Criterion Four, Core Component 4.A, "the institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs," for the following reason:

- There is a lack of faculty understanding of and institutional follow through on degree-specific program review.

The Institution does not meet 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 establishment of program outcomes for all degree programs has not been completed.
- There is a lack of sustained progress in conducting assessment of student learning outcomes as required by the 2015 HLC Comprehensive Visit Team.

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<sup>2</sup> FDCR.B.10.010, Commission Approval of Institutional Teach-Out Arrangements.

<sup>3</sup> INST.E.20.010, Probation.

<sup>4</sup> INST.F.20.040, Substantive Change.

<sup>5</sup> INST.E.20.010, Probation.

- There is no evidence that data on student learning is used to further improvements in teaching and learning.

The Institution meets, but with concerns, Criterion Five, Core Component 5.C, “the institution engages in systematic and integrated planning,” for the following reason:

- The Institution exhibits inconsistent use of tools and processes for aligning budgets, planning, and operations.

The Institution meets, but with concerns, Criterion Five, Core Component 5.D, “the institution works systematically to improve its performance,” for the following reasons:

- The current infrastructure for evaluating institutional effectiveness is complicated and is of limited use in fostering continuous improvement.
- There is limited evidence that the Institution reliably uses data to further improvements in institutional performance and effectiveness.

The Board of Trustees of the Higher Learning Commission has determined based on the preceding findings and evidence in the record that the Institution is not in compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and should therefore be placed on Probation.

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

**Assurance Filing:** The Board required that the Institution submit an Assurance Filing no later than February 1, 2022, or at least eight weeks prior to the comprehensive evaluation, providing evidence that the Institution has ameliorated the findings of noncompliance identified in this action that resulted in the imposition of Probation and the findings of Met with Concerns, and providing evidence that the Institution meets the Criteria for Accreditation, Federal Compliance Requirements, and any cited Assumed Practices (if applicable).

**Comprehensive Evaluation:** The Institution will host a comprehensive evaluation no later than April 2022 to enable a team of peer reviewers to determine whether the Institution has ameliorated the findings of noncompliance that led to the imposition of Probation and whether the Institution otherwise meets the Criteria for Accreditation, and to make a recommendation about whether the Board should remove Probation or take other action.

**Board Review:** The Board will review the documents associated with the evaluation at its November 2022 meeting to determine whether Probation shall be removed, or if the Institution has not provided sufficient evidence of amelioration as noted above, whether other action should be taken, up to and including withdrawal of accreditation.

### **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.

In accordance with HLC policy,<sup>6</sup> information about this action is provided to members of the public and to other constituents in several ways. This Action Letter and the enclosed Public Disclosure Notice will be posted to HLC's website not more than one business day after this letter is sent to the Institution. Additionally, a summary of Board actions will be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations. This summary 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, Kansas City Kansas Community College  
Jerry Pope, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, Kansas City Kansas Community College  
Evaluation Team Chair  
IAC Hearing Committee Chair  
John Marr, Vice President of Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission  
Anthea Sweeney, Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Higher Learning Commission  
Herman Bounds, Director, Accreditation Group, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education

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<sup>6</sup> INST.G.10.010, Management of Commission Information; COMM.A.10.010, Commission Public Notices and Statements