



December 17, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Charles Johnson, President  
Vincennes University  
1002 N. First St.  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Dear President Johnson:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Vincennes University (“the Institution”). This action is effective as of the date the Board acted, December 16, 2020. In taking this action, the Board considered materials from the recent Notice visit, including, but not limited to: the Notice report the Institution submitted, the report from the Notice visit team, the report of the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) Meeting Committee, 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.

### **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:

Vincennes University now meets without concerns Criterion Three, Core Component 3.C, “the institution has the faculty and staff needed for effective, high-quality programs and student services,” for the following reasons:

- The Institution has a policy and procedure in place for faculty credentialing that documents faculty qualifications and tracks the current number of faculty at any given time.
- The Institution has established a formal process to evaluate faculty that includes the opportunity for students to evaluate faculty. This evaluation process is consistently applied to include adjunct and distance faculty.

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 Institution has implemented co-curricular assessment activities, and learning

outcomes and measurements have been developed for these activities.

- The Institution has created a Co-Curricular Assessment Committee that refined the Institution's definition of the term co-curricular, required the identification of co-curricular outcomes, helped develop measurements, and ensured that a process is used to address the resulting changes.
- The Institution has made changes in several areas due to co-curricular assessment findings.

The Institution now meets without concerns Criterion Four, Core Component 4.C, “the institution demonstrates a commitment to educational improvement through ongoing attention to retention, persistence, and completion rates in its degree and certificate programs,” for the following reasons:

- Rather than relying solely on the State’s identified goals, the Institution has established specific goals for retention, persistence, and completion. Those goals are widely shared throughout the institution, tied directly to the Institution’s strategic plan, tracked through the plan and the KPI report, and monitored by the Retention Committee.
- The Institution has developed formal strategies to ensure it is working to meet the goals identified for retention, persistence, and completion.
- The Institution has incorporated nationwide best practices, including academic coaches, peer mentors, the Student Success Center, a Student Success Course, a summer bridge program, and TRIO grant programs, in addition to support services such as tutoring, counseling, and residential programming.

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

- The Institution currently focuses on its strategic plan priorities and has an understanding of how Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) support those priorities.
- The Institution ties the KPIs to assessment outcomes to ensure they are aligned with the strategic planning process and evaluation.
- To hold the Institution accountable, the Board of Trustees reviews the progress of these KPIs annually, including through formal reports.

The Board of Trustees of the Higher Learning Commission has determined based on the preceding findings and evidence in the record that the Institution has otherwise demonstrated that it is in compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation, Assumed Practices, and Federal Compliance Requirements and is not at risk of noncompliance with the Criteria, and thus, should be removed from Notice.

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

**Comprehensive Evaluation:** The Board maintained the Institution on the Standard Pathway with its next comprehensive evaluation (Year 4) in 2022-23.

**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>1</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. Linnea Stenson.

Sincerely,



Barbara Gellman-Danley  
President

Enc: Public Disclosure Notice

Cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Vincennes University  
Dale Peitzak, Senior Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research, Vincennes University  
Evaluation Team Chair  
Teresa Lubbers, Commissioner, Indiana Commission for Higher Education  
Linnea A. Stenson, Vice President of Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission  
Anthea Sweeney, Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Higher Learning Commission

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<sup>1</sup> INST.G.10.010, Management of Commission Information; COMM.A.10.010, Commission Public Notices and Statements