

December 7, 2018

Rev. Mark Zarling  
President  
Martin Luther College  
1995 Luther Court  
New Ulm, MN 56073

Dear President Zarling:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Martin Luther College by the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission at its meeting on December 3, 2018. 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 Martin Luther College with the next Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2028-29. In conjunction with this action, IAC required the following interim monitoring:

**Interim Report.** Interim Report due 11/30/2020 on 4.A and 4.B, including program reviews for pre-seminary, secondary education, elementary education, and early childhood education (4.A). The report should provide evidence of articulation and differentiation of expectations and learning goals for undergraduate and graduate programs (4.B). In addition, the report should include how the assessment process has been strengthened by the use of direct measures of assessment of student learning (4.B).

Further, IAC appended the report requirements to include evidence the institution:

- Closed the gaps in inconsistencies of presentation and specificity among division learning goals (4.B).
- Assured that all divisions state explicit learning goals with sufficient specificity to enable faculty to design courses, course learning goals, assignments, and direct measures of assessments that align with the divisions' respective learning goals (4.B).

**Rationale:** IAC finds there is a disconnect regarding the team's concern over inconsistent learning goals across programs coupled with its finding that a significant number of students cited a lack of academic challenge in general education as well as in some programs, and the absence of interim reporting to rectify inconsistent learning goals (4.A and 4.B).

Specifically, the onsite team noted that learning goals were inconsistently formulated across the institution's eight academic divisions, general education, and graduate programs. Some academic divisions had very specific and granular learning goals, while other divisions contained broad goals that made it difficult for faculty to plan courses, assignments, and assessment that lead to student mastery (4.B).

Further, in the report, the team cited the Student Opinion Survey results that included comments and concerns indicating that Martin Luther College needs to eliminate the inconsistencies and disparities in specificity of published learning goals (4.B).

In two weeks, this action will be added to the *Institutional Status and Requirements (ISR) Report*, a resource for Accreditation Liaison Officers to review and manage information regarding the institution's accreditation relationship. Accreditation Liaison Officers may request the ISR Report on HLC's website at <https://www.hlcommission.org/>

isr-request.

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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.html>.

If you have any questions about these documents after viewing them, please contact the institution's staff liaison Gigi Fansler. 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: ALO