

March 3, 2023

Dr. Daniel Shipp  
President  
Pittsburg State University  
1701 S. Broadway  
Pittsburg, KS 66762

Dear President Shipp:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Pittsburg State University (the institution) by the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) at its meeting on February 27, 2023. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with HLC.

**Action.** IAC continued the accreditation of Pittsburg State University with the next Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2032-33.

Further, IAC voted to change the team's evaluation of Criteria 4B and 4C from "Met with Concerns" to "Met" with no monitoring required.

In taking this action, the IAC considered materials from the most recent evaluation and the institutional response (if applicable) to the evaluation findings.

**Rationale:** The visiting team report found two core components (4B and 4C) as "Met with concerns." The ratings were based on a few narrow issues identified in each core component rather than taking a holistic view of the core components. They were also based on misinterpretation of some terminologies used by the institution. The institutional response clarifies each concern, provides additional information, and accepts taking further actions to address some of the concerns.

There is evidence that core component 4B is met and that all of the academic programs participate in assessment processes. Further, there appears to have been a significant disconnect between the institution's assessment of learning terminologies and those used by the team. The institutional response points to a number of assessments of co-curricular activities, including a formal review of the definition of co-curricular activities in 2019. The institution does acknowledge the disruption of co-curricular activities in 2020 due to Covid-19 which delayed the implementation of the newly designed co-curricular training program. However, the institution has had a robust program of assessing co-curricular programs and activities.

Evidence that core component 4C is met included an examination of the institution's assurance documents as well as the institutional response which delineate the existence of a strategic plan, covering the period 2016-2022. The plan contains very specific retention, persistence, and completion goals. The strategic plan had been extended for one more year covering 2022-2023 upon arrival of the new president which occurred only four months before the HLC visit. Moreover, the institution has recently completed a comprehensive analysis of strengths and challenges as part of the strategic planning process. This has resulted in a revision of the mission and vision, along with identification of strategic goals.

The assurance documents and the institutional response also provide clear evidence that the institution routinely uses data and information to support student success strategies. The institution uses several  
Pittsburg State University

initiatives such as participation in the National Institute of Student Success to assist with achieving the above goals.

In two weeks, this action will be added to the *Institutional Status and Requirements (ISR) Report*, a resource for the institution to review and manage information regarding its accreditation relationship. Chief Executive Officers and Accreditation Liaison Officers may download the ISR Report in Canopy at <https://canopy.hlcommission.org>.

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>.

If you have any questions about these documents after viewing them, please contact the institution's staff liaison, Andrew Lootens-White. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Gellman-Danley".

Barbara Gellman-Danley  
President

cc: Janet Smith, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Andrew Lootens-White, HLC Staff Liaison