

December 10, 2019

Dr. Charlene Aaron  
Chancellor  
St. John's College  
729 East Carpenter Street  
Springfield, IL 62702

Dear Chancellor Aaron:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning St. John's College by the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission at its meeting on December 4, 2019. 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 St. John's College with the next Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2029-30. In conjunction with this action, IAC required the following interim monitoring.

Further, IAC voted to change the team's evaluation of Criterion 4C from "Met" to "Met with Concerns" with the following evidence and determined a monitoring report should be submitted.

**Embedded Report.** Report on the process for using student learning outcomes assessment data for learning and program improvement at all levels embedded in the Year 4 Comprehensive Review. The institution will also develop outcomes and a process for assessing co-curricular programming.

**Embedded Report.** Process developed by the College to address the alignment of processes for assessing student learning, evaluation of operations, planning, and budgeting in the Year 4 Comprehensive Review. The report will articulate a process for anticipating emerging factors (e.g., technology, demographic shifts). The institution shall document the ways it defines and improves the processes and methodologies for collecting and analyzing information on student retention, persistence, and completion of programs to create a clear connection between analysis of results, targets set, changes to improve student success, and whether those changes did what they were intended to do.

**Rationale:** IAC finds Criterion 4C Met with Concerns. The institution reports strong completion numbers (90%) in general and in their Pathway to Success (P2S) program as reported in its assurance argument and affirmed in the team report. However, the visiting team and assurance argument reported a lack of evidence of the institution's comprehensive and routine use of information about student retention, persistence and program completion in making improvements for future change in the institution as warranted by the data. Review of the evidence suggests that the institution has an opportunity to define and improve the processes and methodologies for collecting and analyzing information on student retention, persistence, and completion of programs to create a clear connection between analysis of results, targets set, changes to improve student success, and whether those changes did what they were intended to do.

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>.

St. John's College  
Page 2

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 John Marr. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

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

Barbara Gellman-Danley  
President

CC: ALO