



# HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

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November 15, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Gerard Clancy, President  
University of Tulsa  
800 South Tucker Drive  
Tulsa, OK 74104

Dear President Clancy:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning University of Tulsa (“the Institution”). This action is effective as of the date the Board acted, November 1, 2018. 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 Board reaffirmed the accreditation of the Institution. The Institution meets Core Components 3.B and 4.B with concerns. The Institution is required to submit an Interim Report, as outlined below, no later than December 2020.

## **Board Rationale**

The Board based its action on the following findings made with regard to the Institution:

The Institution meets Criterion Three, Core Component 3.B, “the institution demonstrates that the exercise of intellectual inquiry and the acquisition, application, and integration of broad learning and skills are integral to its educational programs,” but with concerns for the following reasons:

- The Institution is in the process of implementing new institutional learning outcomes with specific and measurable outcomes.
- The Institution continues to develop measurable student learning outcomes in its general education curriculum.
- Continued improvements in general education learning outcomes have yet to be implemented.
- The Institution is ensuring that human and cultural diversity is represented evenly from college to college within the university system.

The Institution meets Criterion Four, Core Component 4.B, “the institution demonstrates a commitment to educational achievement and improvement through ongoing assessment of student learning,” but with concerns for the following reasons:

- Assessment outcomes are lacking for three areas of the Tulsa Curriculum: oral communication, critical thinking, and ethical reasoning.
- Many of the student outcomes continue to lack measurability.
- Annual assessment reports are being revised to reflect the updates in student and institutional learning outcomes.
- The Institution is in the early stages of implementing a shared governance model where all members of the community are using assessment data from annual reports to improve student learning.

### Next Steps in the HLC Review Process

**Interim Report:** The Board required that the Institution submit an Interim Report no later than December 2020 regarding Core Components 3.B and 4.B.

**Comprehensive Evaluation:** The Institution has been placed 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.

HLC policy<sup>1</sup> requires that a summary of Board actions be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations. It 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. Thomas Bordenkircher.

Sincerely,



Barbara Gellman-Danley  
President

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<sup>1</sup> COMM.A.10.010, Commission Public Notices and Statements

Cc: Janet Levit, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Tulsa  
Evaluation Team Chair  
IAC Hearing Committee Chair  
Thomas Bordenkircher, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning  
Commission  
Anthea Sweeney, Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs, Higher Learning  
Commission