



Middle States Commission on Higher Education

3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 Tel: 267-284-5000 www.msche.org

January 10, 2019

Dr. Luis Tapia
Acting Chancellor
UPR - Utuado
P. O. Box 2500
Utuado, PR 00641

Dear Dr. Tapia:

I am writing on behalf of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education to inform you that on January 7, 2019, the Commission acted as follows:

To acknowledge receipt of the supplemental information report. To note that the report did not provide the requested evidence and was not conducive to Commission review.

To require the institution to show cause, by January 25, 2019, to demonstrate why its accreditation should not be withdrawn because of insufficient evidence that the institution is in compliance with Standard VI (Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement), Requirements of Affiliation 11 and 14, and the Related Entities Policy. To note that the institution remains accredited while on show cause. To note further that federal regulations limit the period during which an institution may be in non-compliance to two years.

To require a show cause report, due January 25, 2019, documenting evidence that the institution has achieved and can sustain ongoing compliance with the Commission's standards, requirements, policies and procedures, and federal compliance requirements. The show cause report must include evidence of

- (1) documented financial resources, funding base, and plans for financial development adequate to support its educational purposes and programs and to ensure financial stability (Standard VI and Requirement of Affiliation 11);
- (2) updated information on the impact of the Fiscal Oversight Management Board's plan and proposed restructuring on the institution's status and finances (Standard VI);
- (3) an annual independent audit confirming financial viability with evidence of follow-up on any concerns cited in the audit's accompanying management letter (Standard VI);
- (4) a record of responsible fiscal management, has a prepared budget for the current year, and undergoes an external financial audit on an annual basis (Standard VI and Requirement of Affiliation 11); and
- (5) certification by the related entity that it recognizes the Commission's compliance requirements and will ensure that responsibilities of the related entity

are fulfilled, including making freely available to the Commission accurate, fair, and complete information through disclosure of information required by the Commission to carry out its accrediting responsibilities (Related Entities Policy; Requirement of Affiliation 14).

To require that the institution complete and submit for approval, by January 25, 2019, a comprehensive, implementable teach-out plan (Teach-Out Plans and Agreements Policy and Procedures). In accordance with Commission policy and federal regulations, the teach-out plan must provide for the equitable treatment of students to complete their education, if the Commission were to withdraw accreditation, and include any signed, teach-out agreements that the institution has entered into or intends to enter into with another institution.

To direct an on-site show cause visit following submission of the report. The purpose of the on-site show cause visit is to verify the information provided in the show cause report and the institution's ongoing and sustainable compliance with the Commission's standards, requirements, policies and procedures, and federal compliance requirements.

To direct a prompt Commission liaison guidance visit to discuss the Commission's expectations.

To note that the institution will be invited to appear before the Commission when it meets to consider the institution's show cause report. The date of the next evaluation will be determined upon reaffirmation of accreditation.

This serves as the Commission's official notification of this action. This action appears on the institution's Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS). If any of the information contained within the action appears to be factually incorrect, please send an email within 30 calendar days of the action to actions@msche.org.

This action is a non-compliance action and includes a request for a show cause report, teachout plan, and a show cause visit. An explanation of this type of action is provided in the Commission's *Accreditation Actions Policy and Procedures*.

This notification will be made publicly available on the Middle States Commission on Higher Education website in accordance with Commission policy *Communication in the Accreditation Process*. In accordance with policy and federal regulation, the Commission provides notification of non-compliance actions to the United States Secretary of Education, the appropriate state or other licensing or authorizing agency, and the appropriate accrediting agencies at the same time it notifies the institution, but no later than 30 days after it takes the action. The Commission provides notification of accreditation actions to the public through its website within 24 hours of informing the institution. Please ensure that the institution's published references to its accreditation status align with Commission policy.

The institution is invited to appear before the Commission when the Commission meets to consider the institution's show cause report. *The Show Cause Appearance Before the Commission Prior to Withdrawal of Accreditation* describes the procedures. Please note that the institution is required to inform the Commission of its intent to appear before the Commission at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the Commission meeting at which the adverse action will be considered. Additional communications will be sent from the President's Office relating to this process.

The institution is also invited to submit an official statement in response to the above Commission action. Any statement must be sent to actions@msche.org within 30 calendar days from the date of the action.

The following resources provide additional information that may be helpful to understanding the Commission's actions and the institution's accreditation status:

[Accreditation Actions Policy](#) and [Procedures](#)

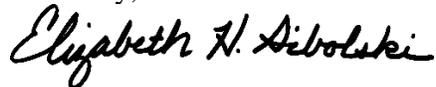
[Accreditation Review Cycle and Monitoring Policy](#) and [Procedures](#)

[Communication in the Accreditation Process](#)

[Show Cause Appearance Before the Commission Prior to Withdrawal of Accreditation](#)

For questions about the Commission's actions, please contact the institution's assigned Commission staff liaison. Questions from the public about the institution's accreditation status can be directed to communications@msche.org.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth H. Sibolski, Ph.D.
President