



HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

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July 11, 2017

Dr. Debra Townsley, President
Wheeling Jesuit University
316 Washington Ave.
Wheeling, WV 26003

Dear President Townsley:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (“HLC” or “the Commission”) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Wheeling Jesuit University (“the University” or “the institution”). At its meeting on June 29, 2017, the Board voted to extend accreditation under the Commission’s policy on Change of Control, Structure, or Organization after the transaction in which the Diocese (Bishop) of Wheeling, West Virginia becomes the sole member of the University. In taking this action, the Board considered materials submitted to the Commission including the Change of Structure Request, the Staff Summary Report, and the institution’s response to the Staff Summary Report.

The Board approved the application subject to the condition that, as required by Commission policy and federal regulation, the University host a focused evaluation within six months of the date of this transaction. The evaluation will be focused on the appropriateness of the approval and the institution’s compliance with any commitments made in the Change of Control application and with the Eligibility Requirements and the Criteria for Accreditation, with specific focus on the University's compliance with the following:

- Core Component 2.C, regarding administrative and executive staff;
- Core Component 5.A, regarding the University's finances and financial management practices; and
- Core Component 5.B, regarding the University's governance and presidential oversight, particularly as it relates to the Bishop's authority to terminate the President of the University.

The Board maintained the University on the Standard Pathway with its next comprehensive evaluation for Reaffirmation of Accreditation to take place in 2018-19.

Please send the Commission written notice of the closing date within 24 hours after the transaction has closed. You are also obligated to notify the Commission prior to closing if any of the material terms of this transaction have changed or appear likely to change. By Commission policy the closing must take place within no more than thirty days from the date of the Board’s approval. If there is any delay such that the transaction cannot close within this time frame, you must notify the Commission as soon as possible.

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Commission policy COMM.A.10.010, Commission Public Notices and Statements, requires that the Commission publish this letter on its website. The University is encouraged to prepare statements to its constituencies regarding this action; I ask that you copy Dr. Stephanie Brzuzy on any such communication.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you and your associates for your cooperation. Please contact Dr. Brzuzy if you have questions about any of the information in this letter.

Sincerely,



Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Wheeling Jesuit University
Robert Phillips, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, Wheeling Jesuit University
Paul Hill, Chancellor, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission
Evaluation team members
Stephanie Brzuzy, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission
Karen Peterson Solinski, Executive Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs, Higher Learning Commission