



Middle States Commission on Higher Education

3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680. Tel: 267-284-5000. Fax: 215-662-5501

www.msche.org

June 27, 2014

Dra. Ethel Rios Orlandi
Acting Chancellor
UPR - Rio Piedras Campus
P. O. Box 23300
San Juan, PR 00931-3300

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SECCION DE INVESTIGACION Y ACREDITACION
OFICINA DEL PRESIDENTE
UNIVERSIDAD DE P. R.

Dear Dra. Rios Orlandi:

At its session on June 26, 2014, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted:

To accept the monitoring report. To remind the institution of its obligation to ensure timely production of audited financial statements. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2015-2016.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Statement of Accreditation Status for your institution. The Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS) provides important basic information about the institution and its affiliation with the Commission, and it is made available to the public in the Directory of Members and Candidates on the Commission's website at www.msche.org. Accreditation applies to the institution as detailed in the SAS; institutional information is derived from data provided by the institution through annual reporting and from Commission actions. If any of the institutional information is incorrect, please contact the Commission as soon as possible.

Please check to ensure that published references to your institution's accredited status (catalog, other publications, web page) include the full name, address, and telephone number of the accrediting agency. Further guidance is provided in the Commission's policy statement *Advertising, Student Recruitment, and Representation of Accredited Status*. If the action for your institution includes preparation of a progress report, monitoring report or supplemental report, please see our policy statement on *Follow-up Reports and Visits*. Both policies can be obtained from our website.

Please be assured of the continuing interest of the Commission on Higher Education in the well-being of UPR - Rio Piedras Campus. If any further clarification is needed regarding the SAS or other items in this letter, please feel free to contact Dr. Tito Guerrero, Vice President.

Sincerely,

George A. Pruitt, Ph.D.
Chair

c: Office of the President, University of Puerto Rico Central Administration
Office of the Executive Director, Puerto Rico Council on Higher Education

2014-6/108



MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS

UPR - RIO PIEDRAS CAMPUS

P. O. Box 23300

San Juan, PR 00931-3300

Phone: (787) 764-0000; Fax: (787) 764-8799

www.uprrp.edu

Chief Executive Officer: Dra. Ethel Rios Orlandi, Acting Chancellor

System: University of Puerto Rico Central Administration
Dr. Celeste Freytes, Acting President
G.P.O. Box 4984-G
San Juan, PR 00936
Phone: (787) 759-6061; Fax: (787) 759-6917

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Enrollment (Headcount): 12126 Undergraduate ; 3361 Graduate

Control: Public

Affiliation: Government-State and Local - See notes at the end of the section.

Carnegie Classification: Research - High Research Activity

Degrees Offered: Bachelor's, Postbaccalaureate Certificate, Master's, Post-Master's Certificate, Doctor's - Professional Practice, Doctor's - Research/Scholarship;

Distance Education Programs: Approved (School Library Certificate Program)

Accreditors Recognized by U.S. Secretary of Education: American Bar Association, Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar; National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education; National Association of Schools of Art and Design, Commission on Accreditation

Other Accreditors: Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP); Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB); Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET); Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC); American Chemical Society (ACS); Accreditation Council for Education on Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND); Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication-ACEJMC; Council on Social Work Education; (CSWE) Council on Rehabilitation Education, Inc. (CORE); Consejo Educacion Superior (CES); National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA); NAST (National Association Schools of Theatre); Planning Accreditation Board (PAB); The

National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB)

Instructional Locations

Branch Campuses: None

Additional Locations: Abbott Laboratories, Barceloneta, PR; Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company, Barceloneta, PR; UPR Humacao, Humacao, PR.

Other Instructional Sites: None

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

Status: Member since 1946

Last Reaffirmed: November 17, 2011

Most Recent Commission Action:

June 26, 2014: To accept the monitoring report. To remind the institution of its obligation to ensure timely production of audited financial statements. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2015-2016.

Brief History Since Last Comprehensive Evaluation:

November 17, 2011: To accept the monitoring report, to note the visit by the Commission's representatives, to remove probation, and to reaffirm accreditation. To remind the institution that a monitoring report is due April 1, 2012 on Standard 2 (Planning, Resource Allocation, and Institutional Renewal), Standard 3 (Institutional Resources), Standard 7 (Institutional Assessment), Standard 12 (General Education), and Standard 14 (Assessment of Student Learning). The monitoring report should document further progress in (1) strengthening institutional resources and developing alternative forms of income, including institutional pro-forma budgets that demonstrate the institution's ability to generate a balanced budget for fiscal years 2012 through 2014, including the personnel, compensation, and other assumptions on which these budgets are based (Standard 3); (2) steps taken to ensure timely production of audited financial statements for FY 2011 and subsequent years (Standard 3); (3) further steps taken to improve communication and shared governance, especially in documenting how campus input is solicited and considered in decision-making at the System level (Standard 4); (4) evidence of further implementation of the UPR Action Plan, including evidence that the action plan is being assessed and data are used for improvements (Standard 7); (5) evidence that steps have been taken to assure continuity and stability of institutional leadership, particularly in times of governmental transitions (Standard 5); (6) evidence that communication between the Central Administration and the institution, is clear, timely, accurate, and made available to all constituents; and (7) evidence of further progress in implementing a procedure for the periodic objective assessment of the Board of Trustees (Standard 4). To further request that the monitoring report document evidence (1) that the institution continues to improve

communication, especially with respect to soliciting and considering campus input in decision-making (Standard 2); (2) that the administration makes every effort to expedite the work of the search committees that have been constituted to fill the deanships (Standard 5); and (3) that the institution creates additional opportunities, both formal and informal, to directly receive input from students (Standard 6). A visit may follow submission of the monitoring report. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2015-2016.

- June 28, 2012: To accept the monitoring report. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2015-2016.
- June 13, 2013: To request, in accordance with the Commission's policy on Public Communication in the Accrediting Process, a supplemental information report, due July 10, 2013, that addresses the impact on institutional leadership of the recent changes in governance and administration, the investigation by the National Science Foundation's Office of the Inspector General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and actions planned or taken by the University to ensure ongoing compliance with Standards 4, 5 and 6. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2015-2016.
- June 25, 2013: To note that an extension has been granted for the submission of a supplemental information report that addresses the impact on institutional leadership of the recent changes in governance and administration, the investigation by the National Science Foundation's Office of the Inspector General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and actions planned or taken by the University to ensure ongoing compliance with Standards 4, 5 and 6. The supplemental information report is now due August 1, 2013. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2015-2016.
- November 21, 2013: To accept the supplemental information report. To request a monitoring report, due April 1, 2014, documenting evidence of an independent audit for FY2013, with evidence of follow-up on any concerns cited in the audit's accompanying management letter for both FY2012 and FY2013 (Standard 3). To remind the institution of its obligation to inform the Commission about any and all significant developments related to the investigation of the National Science Foundation. The Commission expects to be informed of such developments within ten business days of their occurrence. To further remind the institution of its obligation to ensure timely production of audited financial statements. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2015-2016.

Next Self-Study Evaluation: 2015 - 2016

Next Periodic Review Report: 2021

Date Printed: June 27, 2014

DEFINITIONS

Branch Campus - A location of an institution that is geographically apart and independent of the main campus of the institution. The location is independent if the location: offers courses in educational programs leading to a degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential; has its own faculty and administrative or supervisory organization;

and has its own budgetary and hiring authority.

Additional Location - A location, other than a branch campus, that is geographically apart from the main campus and at which the institution offers at least 50 percent of an educational program. ANYA ("Approved but Not Yet Active") indicates that the location is included within the scope of accreditation but has not yet begun to offer courses. This designation is removed after the Commission receives notification that courses have begun at this location.

Other Instructional Sites - A location, other than a branch campus or additional location, at which the institution offers one or more courses for credit.

Distance Education Programs - Fully Approved, Approved (one program approved) or Not Approved indicates whether or not the institution has been approved to offer diploma/certificate/degree programs via distance education (programs for which students could meet 50% or more of the requirements of the program by taking distance education courses). Per the Commission's Substantive Change policy, Commission approval of the first two Distance Education programs is required to be "Fully Approved." If only one program is approved by the Commission, the specific name of the program will be listed in parentheses after "Approved."

EXPLANATION OF COMMISSION ACTIONS

An institution's accreditation continues unless it is explicitly suspended or removed. In addition to reviewing the institution's accreditation status at least every 5 years, actions are taken for substantive changes (such as a new degree or geographic site, or a change of ownership) or when other events occur that require review for continued compliance. Any type of report or visit required by the Commission is reviewed and voted on by the Commission after it is completed.

In increasing order of seriousness, a report by an institution to the Commission may be accepted, acknowledged, or rejected.

Levels of Actions:

Grant or Re-Affirm Accreditation without follow-up

Defer a decision on initial accreditation: The institution shows promise but the evaluation team has identified issues of concern and recommends that the institution be given a specified time period to address those concerns.

Postpone a decision on (reaffirmation of) accreditation: The Commission has determined that there is insufficient information to substantiate institutional compliance with one or more standards.

Continue accreditation: A delay of up to one year may be granted to ensure a current and accurate representation of the institution or in the event of circumstances beyond the institution's control (natural disaster, U.S. State Department travel warnings, etc.)

Recommendations to be addressed in the next Periodic Review Report: Suggestions for improvement are given, but no follow-up is needed for compliance.

Supplemental Information Report: This is required when a decision is postponed and are intended only to allow the institution to provide further information, not to give the institution time to formulate plans or initiate remedial action.

Progress report: The Commission needs assurance that the institution is carrying out activities that were planned or were being implemented at the time of a report or on-site visit.

Monitoring report: There is a potential for the institution to become non-compliant with MSCHE standards; issues are more complex or more numerous; or issues require a substantive, detailed report. A visit may or may not be required.

Warning: The Commission acts to Warn an institution that its accreditation may be in jeopardy when the institution is not in compliance with one or more Commission standards and a follow-up report, called a monitoring report, is required to demonstrate that the institution has made appropriate improvements to bring itself into compliance. Warning indicates that the Commission believes that, although the institution is out of compliance, the institution has the capacity to make appropriate improvements within a reasonable period of time and the institution has the capacity to sustain itself in the long term.

Probation: The Commission places an institution on Probation when, in the Commission's judgment, the institution is not in compliance with one or more Commission standards and that the non-compliance is sufficiently serious, extensive, or acute that it raises concern about one or more of the following:

1. the adequacy of the education provided by the institution;
2. the institution's capacity to make appropriate improvements in a timely fashion; or
3. the institution's capacity to sustain itself in the long term.

Probation is often, but need not always be, preceded by an action of Warning or Postponement. If the Commission had previously postponed a decision or placed the institution on Warning, the Commission may place the institution on Probation if it determines that the institution has failed to address satisfactorily the Commission's concerns in the prior action of postponement or warning regarding compliance with Commission standards. This action is accompanied by a request for a monitoring report, and a special visit follows. Probation may, but need not always, precede an action of Show Cause.

Suspend accreditation: Accreditation has been Continued for one year and an appropriate evaluation is not possible. This is a procedural action that would result in Removal of Accreditation if accreditation cannot be reaffirmed within the period of suspension.

Show cause why the institution's accreditation should not be removed: The institution is required to present its case for accreditation by means of a substantive report and/or an on-site evaluation. A "Public Disclosure Statement" is issued by the Commission.

Remove accreditation. If the institution appeals this action, its accreditation remains in effect until the appeal is completed.

Other actions are described in the Commission policy, "Range of Commission Actions on Accreditation."