



Middle States Commission on Higher Education

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

May 1, 2008

08 MAY '08 PM 03:15 RECTORIA R.P.

Dr. Gladys Escalona de Motta
Chancellor
UPR - Rio Piedras Campus
P. O. Box 23300
San Juan, PR 00931-3300

Dear Dr. Escalona de Motta:

At its session on April 30, 2008, the Executive Committee for Substantive Change of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted:

To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request and to include the additional location at UPR Humacao within the scope of the institution's accreditation. To note that a visit to the additional location at the Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company plant located in Barceloneta, Puerto Rico has occurred and that the Commission will act at on the visit at its June 26, 2008 meeting. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2010.

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 letter, 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. Luis G. Pedraja, Vice President.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Burnham
Chair

c: Lcdo. Antonio Garcia Padilla, President, University of Puerto Rico Central Administration
Mr. Justo Reyes-Torres, Executive Director, Puerto Rico Council on Higher Education



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: Dr. Gladys Escalona de Motta, Chancellor

System: University of Puerto Rico Central Administration
Lcdo. Antonio Garcia Padilla, President
G.P.O. Box 4984-G
San Juan, PR 00936
Phone: (787) 759-6061; Fax: (787) 759-6917

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Enrollment (Headcount): 15122 Undergraduate; 3678 Graduate

Control: Public

Affiliation: State and Local

Institution Type: Doctoral/Research-Intensive

Degrees Offered: Certificate/Diploma, Bachelor's, Master's, 1st Professional Degree, Doctoral

Distance Learning Programs: Yes (approved for the following program(s): School Library Certificate Program)

Accreditors Approved by U.S. Secretary of Education: American Bar Association (ABA), Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar; American Dietetic Association, Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) ; American Library Association (ALA), Committee on Accreditation ; Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE); Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) ; National Architecture Accrediting Board (NAAB); National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) ; Planning Accreditation Board (PAB)

Instructional Locations

Branch Campuses: None

Additional Locations: Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company, Barceloneta, Unavailable: Puerto Rico; UPR Humacao, Humacao, PR.

Other Instructional Sites: None

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

Status: Member since 1946

Last Reaffirmed: June 22, 2005

Most Recent Commission Action:

April 30, 2008: To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request and to include the additional location at UPR Humacao within the scope of the institution's accreditation. To note that a visit to the additional location at the Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company plant located in Barceloneta, Puerto Rico has occurred and that the Commission will act at on the visit at its June 26, 2008 meeting. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2010.

Brief History Since Last Comprehensive Evaluation:

June 22, 2005: To reaffirm accreditation. To request a monitoring report due by November 1, 2006, documenting (1) progress made in the implementation of a comprehensive institutional strategic plan which links long-range planning to decision making and budgeting processes; (2) implementation of a written plan for the assessment of institutional effectiveness; and (3) progress toward the implementation of a new undergraduate curriculum. A small team visit may follow submission of the report. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2010.

June 28, 2007: To accept the monitoring report and to thank the institution for receiving the Commission's representatives. To request a progress letter due April 1, 2008, documenting steps taken to strengthen general education, including implementation of the new general studies plan. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2010.

January 2, 2008: To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request and to provisionally include the additional location at the Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company plant located in Barceloneta, Puerto Rico, within the scope of the institution's accreditation pending a site visit within six months. To remind the institution that a progress letter is due April 1, 2008, documenting steps taken to strengthen general education, including implementation of the new general studies plan. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2010.

Next Self-Study Evaluation: 2014 - 2015

Next Periodic Review Report: 2010

Date Printed: May 1, 2008

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.

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 Learning Programs - Yes or No indicates whether or not the institution has been approved to offer one or more degree or certificate/diploma programs for which students could meet 50% or more of their requirements by taking distance learning courses.

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 letter: 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 institution appears not to be in compliance with one or more of the Commission's standards. A monitoring report is required, with or without an on-site visit. A "Public Disclosure Statement" is issued by the Commission.

Probation: The institution fails to meet one or more standards. A monitoring report is required, with or without an on-site visit. A "Public Disclosure Statement" is issued by the Commission.

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."