



The Higher Learning Commission

A Commission of the
North Central Association
of Colleges and Schools



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November 25, 2008

From: Stephen D. Spanghel, Director, AQIP

RE: Required Institutional Response to Reaffirmation Recommendation

Dear President Weber:

Enclosed is the recommendation for reaffirmation of Kankakee Community College's accreditation that was produced and approved by the AQIP Review Panel on Reaffirmation of Accreditation. Congratulations!

We have scheduled the recommendation for action on the December 8, 2008, agenda of the Commission's Institutional Actions Council, after which the Higher Learning Commission's Board of Trustees will affirm the action in a letter to you that should arrive before the holidays.

However the Higher Education Opportunity Act that was revised by Congress and signed by President Bush in August has required our Board of Trustees to provisionally adopt some changes in policy to comply with the HEOA, and one of these affects this reaffirmation action. The new relevant HLC policy says

Policy no.: 2.3(f): INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES WITHIN THE PROCESSES

The CEO of the institution is expected to file written responses to any of the following: (1) the team's report and recommendations; (2) a Readers Panel process if it forwards the team recommendation to a Review Committee; (3) a Review Committee recommendation forwarded to either the Institutional Actions Council or the Board of Trustees; (4) AQIP reviews, including the review that results in a recommendation for continued accreditation; (5) staff recommendations other than those initiated at the request of the institution. Those responses are used in the review processes and become a part of the official record of the process. The CEO shall submit the written response within two weeks of receipt of the final evaluation team report. The response shall be considered in the review processes prior to the final action, including adverse action, and becomes a part of the official record of the process.

To comply with this policy, I need you to send me a written response to the AQIP Review Panel's recommendation, affirming that you have received and reviewed it, and making any comments you choose to make. (A brief letter or email simply acknowledging the recommendation will suffice.) I assume you will agree with the recommendation to reaffirm your institution's accreditation, but if for some reason you do not, please phone me immediately; setting up a process to oppose an affirmation recommendation is not something we have planned, but we can do so if the need arises.

In order to comply with this new Board policy, we need your formal response, in a letter or email, by December 5, 2008. If it does not arrive by then, we will have to defer action on your reaffirmation until the next Institutional Actions Council meeting. If this happens, it does not reflect in any way on the merits of your institution; it is merely a matter of complying with our own and with federal regulations.

Thank you for your cooperation. I look forward to your response to the recommendation.

