



December 16, 2020 ****REVISED January 12, 2021****

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VIA EMAIL

acics@lincolnuca.edu

Dr. Mikhail Brodsky
President
Lincoln University
401 15th Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Renewal of Accreditation – Continue Show Cause

Dear Dr. Brodsky:

At its December 2020 meeting, the Council reviewed your institution's application for renewal of accreditation, the evaluation team's visit report, and subsequent responses to that report. The institution first appeared before the Council in December 2019 with nine findings, two of which were resolved, and was issued a compliance warning. The institution next appeared before the Council in May 2020, where two of the seven findings were resolved. At the August 2020 meeting, the institution was directed to show cause in writing why their accreditation should not be withdrawn, with five findings still remaining. The campus most recently appeared before the Council in December 2020, resolving four of their five findings to the Council's satisfaction. As a result of its review, the Council found the following, based on the *Accreditation Criteria*:

- The type and amount of institutionally funded needs-based grants (referred to as "discounts") is not determined by an independent selection or review panel (Section 3-1-431 and Appendix E). In response to the finding, the institution updated their institutional "Needs-Based Discount" policy to include the application process and how need is determined, and provided a completed application, award letters, and the correlated ledger cards. However, it is still unclear how the amount of the discount is determined. The updated policy states that award amounts are related to the number of academic units the student is taking; however, no further explanation of that relationship was provided. The amounts awarded to students varied, with no explanation of criteria for determining the amounts or that they were determined by an independent selection or review panel. The policy simply states that it is awarded at the discretion of the President.

In addition, ACICS has become aware that the institution is currently offering a Doctor of Business Administration program. Evidence of the program offering was reviewed both on the institution's website and in information that the institution provided in response to their outstanding findings. In response to the Council's inquiry, the institution confirmed that the program is active with a current enrollment of 23 students. The institution also provided evidence that they have attained institutional accreditation, to include the doctoral degree program, with the WASC Senior College and University

Commission (WSCUC) as of June 2020. However, as ACICS is an institutional accreditor, and per Section 2-2-120 of the *Accreditation Criteria*, “All programs and delivery methods must be within the institution’s scope of accreditation and receive ACICS approval before recruiting or enrolling students.”

Council Action

Therefore, the Council acted to extend the institution’s current grant through **May 31, 2021** and **continue the directive to show cause in writing** at the Council’s May 2021 meeting why its current grant of accreditation should not be withdrawn by suspension or otherwise conditioned. In response to the show-cause directive, the institution must submit the following information by **March 26, 2021**:

1. Evidence that institutional grants – referred to as “discounts” – are being awarded in accordance with these published standards and the amounts of the awards are being determined by an independent selection or review panel. The published standards in the catalog **must** include how the amount of a discount is determined and awarded to the student. The institution must provide the criteria for establishing award amounts and how that amount directly relates to the number of academic units the student is taking in that term. Additionally, ledger cards, award letters, and evidence of the evaluation of need must be provided for each student awarded a discount between January 1, 2021 and March 26, 2021.
2. Given that ACICS’s approved scope of recognition is through the master’s degree credential level, in response to this action, the institution must provide evidence that it has terminated the doctoral program offerings at the institution. Documentation must include communication to all stakeholders, including students, as well as the removal of all references on its website and other publications.

Updated Institutional Teach-Out Plan

Further, in compliance with Section 2-3-230 of the *Accreditation Criteria*, the institution must submit an updated audit of students to their previously submitted teach-out plan, which shows their progression towards completion of their respective programs. The audit must include a list with the student names in alphabetical order, program of study, and expected graduation date. For students in the doctoral program, transfer agreements should be submitted when possible.

The Council is obligated to take adverse action against any institution that fails to come into compliance with the *Accreditation Criteria* within a time frame determined by the Council, without a finding of good cause. Please consult the Introduction of Title II, Chapter 3, for additional information.

Please contact Ms. Karly Zeigler at kzeigler@acics.org or (202) 336-6846 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The image shows a stylized signature of Michelle Edwards in blue ink. Above the signature is the ACICS logo, which consists of the letters 'ACICS' in a blue, serif font. The letter 'I' is replaced by a stylized flame icon in red and orange.

Michelle Edwards
President and CEO

- c: Ms. Cathy Sheffield, Accreditation and State Liaison, U.S. Department of Education
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