June 27, 2008

Dr. Alice P. Gast
President
Lehigh University
27 Memorial Drive West
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Dear Dr. Gast:

At its session on June 26, 2008, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted:

To reaffirm accreditation and to request a progress letter, due by April 1, 2010, documenting implementation of an organized and sustained process for identifying and assessing the attainment of student learning outcomes in the College of Arts and Sciences (Standard 14). The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2013.

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 Lehigh University. If any further clarification is needed regarding the SAS or other items in this letter, please feel free to contact Dr. Robert A. Schneider, Vice President.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Burnham
Chair

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education accredits institutions of higher education in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and other locations abroad.
STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY
27 Memorial Drive West
Bethlehem, PA 18015
Phone: (610) 758-3000; Fax: (610) 758-4361
www.lehigh.edu

Chief Executive Officer: Dr. Alice P. Gast, President

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Enrollment (Headcount): 4756 Undergraduate; 2089 Graduate
Control: Private (Non-Profit)
Affiliation: n/a
Carnegie Classification: Research - High Research Activity
Degrees Offered: Certificate/Diploma, Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral
Distance Learning Programs: Yes
Accreditors Approved by U.S. Secretary of Education: Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET); National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST), Commission on Accreditation

Instructional Locations

Branch Campuses: None

Additional Locations: None

Other Instructional Sites: None

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

Status: Member since 1921
Last Reaffirmed: June 26, 2008
Most Recent Commission Action:

June 26, 2008: To reaffirm accreditation and to request a progress letter, due by April 1, 2010, documenting implementation of an organized and sustained process for identifying and assessing the attainment of student learning outcomes in the College of Arts and Sciences (Standard 14). The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2013.

Brief History Since Last Comprehensive Evaluation:

November 19, 2003: To accept the Periodic Review Report and to reaffirm accreditation. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2007-08.

Next Self-Study Evaluation: 2017 - 2018

Next Periodic Review Report: 2013

Date Printed: June 27, 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.”