

# Accrediting Council

On Education in Journalism and Mass Communications

Susanne Shaw  
*Executive Director*

May 8, 2018

Larry Robinson  
President  
Florida A&M University  
Tallahassee, FL 32307

Dear President Robinson:

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications voted 17-2, with one member abstaining, at its April 27-28 meeting in Chicago that provisional reaccreditation be given to the Division of Journalism in the School of Journalism & Graphic Communication at Florida A&M University. Valerie White, interim director of the Division of Journalism, and Dhyana Ziegler, interim dean of the School of Journalism & Graphic Communication, attended the meeting.

At its March 24 meeting in Chicago, the Accrediting Committee voted 0-13, with two members abstaining, against the team's recommendation for reaccreditation of the Division of Journalism. The Committee then voted 13-0, with two members abstaining, in favor of recommending the Division of Journalism receive provisional reaccreditation.

The Council discussed the site visit team's and the Committee's recommendations. The Council discussed the school's non-compliance with two standards:

Standard 5: Scholarship: Research, Creative  
and Professional Activity

Standard 9: Assessment of Learning Outcomes

The Council also considered your April 5 response to the Committee's decision.

The Council's procedures say: "A unit may receive provisional accreditation or reaccreditation when the Council has found weaknesses that can be corrected within two years." Schools have the option to schedule a revisit in one or two years.

President Larry Robinson

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May 8, 2018

If you wish to have a revisit in the 2018-19 academic year, you must submit a request no later than July 1, 2018, and the revisit must occur no later than Feb. 1, 2019. For a revisit during the 2019-20 academic year, a request must be made no later than July 1, 2019, and the revisit must occur no later than Feb. 1, 2020.

Please send your formal request before the stated deadline along with sufficient documentation that all identified weaknesses have been corrected. The letter and accompanying material should be sent to Susanne Shaw, executive director. Two people will revisit the Division of Journalism in the School of Journalism & Graphic Communication. The revisit will focus on Standard 5: Scholarship: Research, Creative and Professional Activity; and Standard 9: Assessment of Learning Outcomes.

The team chair will make a recommendation to the Accrediting Committee and the Committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the Accrediting Council.

The expenses of the revisit to Florida A&M University and the team chair's expenses to the Committee meeting to present the revisit report must be paid by the Division of Journalism before the Council meeting. If you, Prof. White or Dean Ziegler have questions about what should be addressed for the revisit, please contact Susanne Shaw.

Council procedures require that I tell you of your right to appeal this decision. I have enclosed a copy of the appeals procedures, which specifies that you must notify me within 30 days of receipt of this letter if you wish to make an appeal. Grounds for appeal of a decision to award provisional accreditation must be based on one or more of the following: 1) evidence that the Council failed to adhere to applicable adopted procedures; 2) evidence that, based upon the record before the Council, the decision was arbitrary and capricious or not supported by substantial evidence. Appeals must be made in writing and must be based on concrete evidence that was in the record before the Council at the time of the original decision.

If the Division of Journalism chooses to appeal this decision, the Council will consider that appeal at its Aug. 24 meeting in Chicago. While an appeal is pending and before a decision on the appeal is made by the Council, there will be no change in the accredited status of the Division of Journalism.

All expenses of the appeal, including travel, shall be paid by the institution initiating the appeal. Eighty percent of the estimated costs of the appeal hearing must be sent to the ACEJMC President Larry Robinson -3- May 8, 2018

office two weeks before the date of the scheduled Appeals Board meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate with your faculty and administration in the assessment of your program. The goal of the Accrediting Council is to improve the quality of education offered to students served by a program through that assessment.

Sincerely,



Peter Bhatia  
President

cc: Dhyana Ziegler, interim dean, School of Journalism  
& Graphic Communication  
Valerie White, interim director, Division of Journalism  
Caesar Andrews, site team chair  
Marie Hardin, vice chair, Accrediting Committee  
Chris Callahan, chair, Accrediting Committee  
Susanne Shaw, executive director, ACEJMC