

Accrediting Council

On Education in Journalism and Mass Communications

Patricia Thompson
Executive Director

May 9, 2022

Robert Davies, President
Central Michigan University

Dear President Davies:

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications met April 29 and voted 17-0 that the undergraduate program in the Department of Journalism at Central Michigan University receive provisional reaccreditation. The Council concurred with the site team and Committee recommendations for provisional reaccreditation. Elizabeth Kirby, interim dean, attended the meeting.

Council members discussed the noncompliances on Standard 1 (Mission, Governance and Administration), Standard 2 (Curriculum and Instruction) and Standard 9 (Assessment of Learning Outcomes).

Our policies state that a unit may receive provisional accreditation when the Council has found weaknesses that can be corrected within two years. We will be in touch with the director to schedule a two-person revisit team. Revisits usually take place one or two years after the initial visit. During the revisit, the Department of Journalism will be reviewed for improvement in the areas identified as deficiencies in the site team report, including leadership stability, an updated strategic plan, evidence of shared governance, an updated curriculum tied to assessment of student learning outcomes, and more consistent implementation of direct measures of assessment.

Council procedures require that I tell you of your right to appeal this decision. You must notify the ACEJMC office 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. All expenses of the appeal, including travel, shall be paid by the institution initiating the appeal.

If an appeal is filed, while it 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 Department of Journalism. The status will remain the same as currently listed following the 2015 vote (reaccredited).

Thank you for the opportunity to participate with your faculty and administrators 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. Please accept my best wishes for success for the Department of Journalism, its students, faculty and the professional media constituencies it serves.

Sincerely,



Peter Bhatia
ACEJMC President

cc: Elizabeth Kirby, interim dean
William Dailey, interim chair, Department of Journalism
David Boardman, chair, site team
Marie Hardin, chair, Accrediting Committee
Patricia Thompson, executive director, ACEJMC