

Accrediting Council

On Education in Journalism and Mass Communications

Patricia Thompson
Executive Director

Todd Diacon, President
Kent State University

May 9, 2022

Dear President Diacon:

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications met April 29 and voted 16-0 that the undergraduate program in the School of Media and Journalism at Kent State University receive provisional reaccreditation. There was one recusal. Emily Metzgar, director, attended the meeting.

The vote for provisional reaccreditation followed a failed motion for reaccreditation, 6-10, with one recusal. The site team had recommended reaccreditation, and the ACEJMC Committee, at its meeting in March, had voted 11-0, with three recusals, to recommend reaccreditation. The Council overturned the site team and Committee recommendations for reaccreditation.

Council members discussed the noncompliance on Standard 3 (Diversity and Inclusiveness). They noted that several elements of the diversity standard were weak or missing. Council members also expressed concerns about student complaints about the digital production major.

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.

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 School of Media and 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 School of Media and Journalism, its students, faculty and the professional media constituencies it serves.

Sincerely,



Peter Bhatia
ACEJMC President

cc: Emily Metzgar, director, School of Media and Journalism
Jennifer Sizemore, chair, site team
Marie Hardin, chair, Accrediting Committee
Patricia Thompson, executive director, ACEJMC