

# Accrediting Council

On Education in Journalism and Mass Communications

Patricia Thompson  
Executive Director

May 9, 2019

Eric W. Kaler, President  
University of Minnesota  
202 Morrill Hall  
100 Church St. S.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0110

Dear President Kaler:

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications met April 26 in Chicago and voted 14-2, with 1 abstention, that the Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota receive reaccreditation. Chris Ison, director of undergraduate studies, attended the meeting.

The Council concurred with the recommendations for reaccreditation made by the Accrediting Committee and the site team. The school was found in compliance on all nine ACEJMC standards. Diversity of the school, however, was the subject of considerable discussion at all three levels of our process—during the site visit, during the discussion by our Accrediting Committee and finally during the discussion by our Accrediting Council.

On the positive side, the site team praised the establishment of the Diversity Fellows, the successful recruiting and retention of students of color and student awareness of diversity issues. However, the School's lack of faculty, adjunct faculty and staff members of color provoked conversation at all three levels. As the site team reported, "One substantial lapse is the make-up of full-time faculty. The total includes valuable international faculty, though just one person fitting a domestic diversity classification was employed at the time of the site visit. The unit uniformly acknowledges this weakness, even as it experiments with a promising Diversity Fellows program that has already added seven people of color to the list of adjunct-like instructors spending time with students."

We mention this because the school's next site team, in six years, will be told to consider whether the shortcomings found in this year's report have been corrected. We understand that this is not a simple issue but wanted you to know that diversity will be revisited in the next accrediting cycle—and because we think it is such a critical issue for communicators to understand.

The next visit for the School of Journalism will be during the 2024-2025 academic year.

Please accept my congratulations and best wishes for continued success for the Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota, its students, faculty and the professional media constituencies it serves.

Sincerely,



Peter Bhatia  
ACEJMC President

cc: Elisia Cohen, director, School of Journalism and Mass Communication  
Doug Anderson, site team chair  
Chris Callahan, chair, Accrediting Committee  
Patricia Thompson, executive director, ACEJMC