

Accrediting Council

On Education in Journalism and Mass Communications

Susanne Shaw
Executive Director

May 12, 2016

Joseph E. Steinmetz
Chancellor
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
Fayetteville, AR 72701-1201

Dear Chancellor Steinmetz:

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications voted 17-6 at its May 6-7 meeting in Chicago that provisional reaccreditation be given to the undergraduate program in the Walter J. Lemke Department of Journalism at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Larry Foley, chair of the Department of Journalism, attended the meeting.

The Council concurred with the recommendation for the undergraduate program's provisional reaccreditation made by the site team and Accrediting Committee. At its March 19-20 meeting in Chicago, the Committee voted 14-0, with two members abstaining, to recommend provisional reaccreditation for the undergraduate program.

The non-compliance with Standard 3: Diversity and Inclusiveness and Standard 9: Assessment of Learning Outcomes led to the provisional reaccreditation 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.

If you wish to have a revisit in the 2016-17 academic year, you must submit a request no later than Aug. 1, 2016, and the revisit must occur no later than Feb. 1, 2017. For a revisit during the 2017-2018 academic year, a request must be made no later than Aug. 1, 2017, and the revisit must occur no later than Feb. 1, 2018.

Please send your formal request 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 Walter J. Lemke Department of Journalism. The revisit will focus on Standard 3: Diversity and Inclusiveness 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 the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville and the team chair's expenses to the Committee meeting to present the revisit report will be paid by the Department of Journalism. If you or Professor Foley have questions about what should be addressed, 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 specify 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 Department of Journalism chooses to appeal this decision, the Council will consider that appeal at its Sept. 2 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 Department of Journalism.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate with your faculty and administration in the assessment of your journalism 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Anderson".

Doug Anderson
ACEJMC Vice President

cc: Larry Foley, chair, Walter J. Lemke Department of Journalism
Tim Gleason, chair, site team
Chris Callahan, chair, Accrediting Committee
Susanne Shaw, executive director, ACEJMC