

# Accrediting Council

On Education in Journalism and Mass Communications

Susanne Shaw  
*Executive Director*

May 12, 2016

Harold Martin, Sr.  
Chancellor  
North Carolina A&T State University  
Greensboro, NC 27411

Dear Chancellor Martin:

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications voted 23-0 at its May 6-7 meeting in Chicago that provisional reaccreditation be given to the undergraduate program in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at North Carolina A&T State University. Yahya Kamalipour, chair of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Beverly Grier, associate dean of curriculum and student affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Sheila Whitley, associate professor in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, 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 12-0, with three members abstaining, to recommend provisional reaccreditation for the undergraduate program.

The non-compliance with Standard 4: Full-Time and Part-Time Faculty 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 Department of Journalism and Mass Communication. The revisit will focus on Standard 4: Full-Time and Part-time Faculty and Standard 9: Assessment of Learning Outcomes.

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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 North Carolina A&T State University and the team chair's expenses to the Committee meeting to present the revisit report will be paid by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication. If you or Professor Yahya Kamalipour 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 and Mass Communication 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 and Mass Communication.

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,



Doug Anderson  
ACEJMC Vice President

cc: Yahya Kamalipour, chair, Department of Journalism  
and Mass Communication  
Beverly Grier, Associate Dean of Curriculum and Student Affairs,  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Sheila Whitley, Associate Professor, Department of Journalism  
and Mass Communication  
Jan Dates, chair, site team  
Chris Callahan, chair, Accrediting Committee  
Susanne Shaw, executive director, ACEJMC