

Accrediting Council

On Education in Journalism and Mass Communications

May 12, 2020

Jeffrey D. Armstrong, President
California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo
1 Grand Avenue
Building 001, Room 407
San Luis Obispo, California 93407

Dear President Armstrong:

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications met April 25 and voted 19-0, with two members recusing, that the undergraduate program in the Department of Journalism at California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo receive provisional status for initial accreditation. Mary Glick, chair of the Department of Journalism, attended the meeting, which was conducted via video/audio conferencing because of the pandemic.

The Council discussed the program's noncompliances with Standard 2 (Curriculum and Instruction) and Standard 9 (Assessment of Learning Outcomes), and concurred with the recommendations for provisional status made by the Accrediting Committee and the site team.

Our policies state that a unit may receive provisional accreditation or status when the Council has found weaknesses that can be corrected within two years. We will be in touch with the department chair to schedule a two-person revisit team. Revisits usually take place one or two years after the initial visit, but the timing may be affected by the impact of COVID-19.

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 or provisional status 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate with your faculty and administration 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 at California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, its students, faculty and the professional media constituencies it serves.

Sincerely,



Peter Bhatia
ACEJMC President

cc: Mary Glick, chair, Department of Journalism
Ann Brill, site team chair
Marie Hardin, chair, Accrediting Committee
Patricia Thompson, executive director, ACEJMC