

Accrediting Council

On Education in Journalism and Mass Communications

May 14, 2020

Don Killingsworth, Acting President
Jacksonville State University
700 Pelham Rd N.
Jacksonville, AL 36265

Dear President Killingsworth:

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications met April 25 and voted 11-10, with one member recusing, that the undergraduate program in the Department of Communication at Jacksonville State University receive provisional accreditation. Steven McClung, dean of the School of Business and Industry, attended the meeting, which was conducted via video/audio conferencing because of the pandemic.

The Council spent a considerable amount of time discussing the program's noncompliances with Standard 2 (Curriculum and Instruction), Standard 7 (Resources, Facilities and Equipment), and Standard 9 (Assessment of Learning Outcomes). Council members were concerned about the leadership turmoil and asked questions about funding needed to improve the curriculum. The Council concurred with the recommendations for provisional accreditation made by the Accrediting Committee and the site team.

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 dean 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 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 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 Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications at Hampton University, its students, faculty and the professional media constituencies it serves.

Sincerely,



Peter Bhatia
ACEJMC President

cc: Steven McClung, dean, School of Business and Industry
Joel Kaplan, site team chair
Marie Hardin, chair, Accrediting Committee
Patricia Thompson, executive director, ACEJMC