



June 15, 2018

Dr. Michael Hemesath
President
Saint John's University
P.O. Box 2000
2850 Abbey Plaza
Collegeville, MN 56321

Dear President Hemesath:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Saint John's University by the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission at its meeting on June 11, 2018. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with HLC.

Action. IAC continued the accreditation of Saint John's University with the next Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2027-28.

Further, IAC voted to change the team's evaluation of Criterion 1.A, 1.B, and 3.A from "Met with Concerns" to "Met" with the following evidence:

In addressing the visiting team's concerns about Criterion 1.A and 1.B, the institution provided evidence in its response that it has revised its mission statement to more accurately describe its complete range of academic programming and has secured Board of Trustee approval. The visiting team evaluated criteria item 3.A as "Met with Concerns" based on the information that the Master of Theology degree requires only 24-credits. The program is, despite its name, a post-graduate degree designed to be taken after completion of a master's degree, as pre-doctoral work.

Rationale: The institutional response to the team report includes a revised mission statement that adds a specific statement of the purposes for programming offered by the School of Theology and Seminary, with evidence of the approved revision by the institution's Board of Trustees. This response adequately addresses the concerns necessitating the interim report recommendation about the institution's mission statement.

In reference to the second recommended interim report on the Master of Theology credit hour reconciliation, the response noted that the program is a post-graduate program that requires a completed master's degree as part of the admission requirement. This clarification adequately explains the variation from the credit hour requirement for a master's degree, as described in HLC Policy: Assumed Practices, CRRT.B.10.020 and removes the need for that interim report recommendation.

In two weeks, this action will be added to the *Institutional Status and Requirements (ISR) Report*, a resource for Accreditation Liaison Officers to review and manage information regarding the institution's accreditation relationship. Accreditation Liaison Officers may request the ISR Report on HLC's website at <http://www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/institutional-status-and-requirements-report.html>.

Within the next 30 days, HLC will also publish information about this action on its website at <http://www.hlcommission.org/Student-Resources/recent-actions.html>.

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If you have any questions about these documents after viewing them, please contact the institution's staff liaison Barbara Johnson. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Gellman-Danley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

CC: ALO