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COMMISSION ON INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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March 27, 2017

Dr. Peter Salovey  
President  
Yale University  
PO Box 208365  
New Haven, CT 06520-8365

Dear President Salovey:

I am pleased to inform you that at its meeting on March 3, 2017, the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education considered the report submitted by Yale University regarding its plans to offer distance education programming and took the following action:

that the report on distance education submitted by Yale University be accepted and distance education programming be included within the institution's accreditation with an effective date of March 3, 2017;

that the comprehensive evaluation scheduled for Fall 2019 be confirmed;

that, in addition to the information included in all self-studies, the self-study prepared in advance of the Fall 2019 evaluation include an update on the institution's success in implementing the online Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant degree program.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its action.

The report submitted by Yale University was accepted and distance education programming encompassed within the institution's accreditation because the Commission finds the activity to be substantially in compliance with the *Standards for Accreditation* and relevant Commission policies.

The Commission commends Yale University (Yale) for proposing a well-constructed 28-month online Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant (PA) program, offered through a contractual arrangement with 2U, which will "enhance the ability of communities nationwide to deliver quality healthcare services." The proposed program – delivered through the Yale School of Medicine – supports the University's vision for online education and is well integrated into the institution's governance structure; the thoughtful research and planning that was used to develop the program is noteworthy. We further note with approval that Yale will retain control of, and responsibility for, all recruitment materials, admissions and financial aid

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decisions, faculty, curriculum, and the direct delivery and assessment of academic services; 2U will provide the learning platform and operating infrastructure that Yale will use to attract, enroll, educate, support, and graduate students. Faculty assigned to teach in the proposed program are well-qualified and sufficient in number, and student support services, including academic advising, tutoring, and career services, are sufficient to support the program. We further understand that Yale is seeking accreditation of the Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant program through the Accreditation Review Commission of Education for the Physician Assistant, and an onsite visit is scheduled for June 2017. The proposed program is scheduled to launch in January 2018 with 48 students, increasing to about 120 students within five years. Projected graduation and retention rates of 95% are consistent with similar programs offered through the School of Medicine and, with employment of physician's assistants anticipated to grow 38% through 2022, the University is confident that job placement rates will also be high. Finally, we understand that Yale and 2U will share total program revenue estimated at \$2.1 million in year one, increasing to \$6.8 million in year five.

The scheduling of a comprehensive evaluation in Fall 2019 is consistent with Commission policy requiring each accredited institution to undergo a comprehensive evaluation at least once every ten years. We ask that, in addition to the information included in all self-studies, as well as the matters specified in our letter of January 6, 2015, the self-study prepared in advance of the Fall 2019 comprehensive include an update on the institution's success in implementing the online Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant program as evidence that "[t]he institution has a demonstrable record of success in implementing the results of its planning" (2.5).

We remind you that, in the event Yale University enrolls online students from beyond the borders of Connecticut, it is the responsibility of the institution to ensure compliance with state authorization and licensure regulations that relate to the delivery of distance education programming.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the report submitted by Yale University and hopes its preparation has contributed to institutional improvement. We appreciate your cooperation with the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education in New England.

You are encouraged to share this letter with all of the institution's constituencies. It is Commission policy to inform the chairperson of the institution's governing board of action on its accreditation status. In a few days we will be sending a copy of this letter to Ms. Donna Dubinsky. The institution is free to release information about the evaluation and the Commission's action to others, in accordance with the enclosed policy on Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions.

If you have any questions about the Commission's action, please contact Barbara Brittingham, President of the Commission.

Sincerely,



David P. Angel

DPA/sjp

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Donna Dubinsky



## COMMISSION ON INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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### Public Disclosure of Information About Affiliated Institutions

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The following policy governs the release of information regarding the status of affiliated colleges and universities by institutions and by the Commission.

#### 1. Release of Information by Institutions Regarding Their Accreditation Following Commission Action

At the conclusion of the evaluation process institutions are encouraged to make publicly available information about their accreditation status including the findings of team reports and any obligations or requirements established by Commission action, as well as any plans to address stated concerns. Because of the potential to be misleading, institutions are asked not to publish or otherwise disseminate excerpts from these materials.

While the Commission does not release copies of self-studies, progress reports, evaluation reports, or other documents related to the accreditation of individual institutions, it believes it to be good practice for institutions to make these materials available, in their entirety, after notification of Commission action.

While the Commission does not initiate public release of information on actions of show cause or deferral, if such information is released by the institution in question or is otherwise made public, the Commission will respond to related inquiries and may issue a public statement.

If an institution releases or otherwise disseminates information which misrepresents or distorts its accreditation status, the institution will be notified and asked to take corrective action publicly correcting any misleading information it may have disseminated, including but not limited to the accreditation status of the institution, the contents of evaluation reports, and the Commission actions with respect to the institution. Should it fail to do so, the Commission, acting through its President, will release a public statement in such form and content as it deems desirable providing correct information. This may include release of notification letters sent by the Commission to the institution, and/or a press release.

\_\_\_\_\_ College (University) is accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc.

Inquiries regarding the accreditation status by the Commission should be directed to the administrative staff of the institution. Individuals may also contact:

**Commission on Institutions of Higher Education**  
**New England Association of Schools and Colleges**  
**3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100, Burlington, MA 01803-4514**  
**(781) 425 7785**  
**E-Mail: [cihe@neasc.org](mailto:cihe@neasc.org)**

Accreditation by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education has reference to the institution as a whole. Therefore, statements like “fully accredited” or “this program is accredited by the Commission” or “this degree is accredited by the Commission” are incorrect and should not be used.

### 3. **Published Statement on Candidate Status**

An institution granted Candidate for Accreditation status must use the following statement whenever it makes reference to its affiliation with the New England Association:

\_\_\_\_\_ College (University) has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. Candidacy for Accreditation is a status of affiliation with the Commission which indicates that the institution has achieved initial recognition and is progressing toward accreditation.

Candidacy is not accreditation nor does it assure eventual accreditation.

Inquiries regarding the status of an institution affiliated with the Commission should be directed to the administrative staff of the college or university. Individuals may also contact:

**Commission on Institutions of Higher Education**  
**New England Association of Schools and Colleges**  
**3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100, Burlington, MA 01803-4514**  
**(781) 425 7785**  
**E-Mail: [cihe@neasc.org](mailto:cihe@neasc.org)**

### 4. **Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions by the Commission**

The Commission publishes the following information about member and candidate institutions on its website:

- For institutions whose candidacy or accreditation has been withdrawn, the date of, and reasons for, withdrawal.

The Commission recognizes that, to be fully understood, information about the accredited status of institutions must be placed within the context of the policies and procedures of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education. In responding to inquiries, the Commission will endeavor to do so.

The Commission does not generally provide information about deferments of action on candidate or accreditation status, or show-cause orders. However, if such information is released by the institution in question, the Commission will respond to related inquiries and may issue its own statement.

Adverse actions (placement of an institution on probation, denial of candidate status or accreditation, and withdrawal of candidacy or accreditation) are communicated when the decision becomes final (i.e., when the institution does not appeal or when the appeals process is completed and the decision is upheld). The Commission, at its discretion, may make the adverse action public before the decision is final or the appeal is completed. In so doing, the Commission will provide information about the appeal process.

## 5. Public Disclosure of Institutional Actions

Within 30 days after the action on accreditation status is taken, the Commission will notify the Secretary of Education, New England state higher education officers, appropriate accrediting agencies, and the public. Such actions include:

A final decision to:

Grant candidacy or accreditation

Continue an institution in accreditation

Deny or withdraw the candidacy or accreditation of an institution

Place an institution on probation

Approve substantive change (e.g., moving to a higher degree level)

A decision by an accredited or candidate institution to voluntarily withdraw from affiliation with the Commission.

*November 1998*

*September 2001*

*April 2010*

*September 2011*

*Editorial Changes, March 2014*

*April 2015*