



Public Disclosure Notice on Chancellor University (formerly Myers University)

February 25, 2010

The following public information is provided by The Higher Learning Commission (the Commission) regarding Chancellor University. The Commission is a regional accrediting agency that accredits institutions of higher learning in the 19 states of the North Central region.

What is the accreditation status of Chancellor University?

Chancellor University (the University), which officially changed its name from Myers University on September 3, 2008, is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission. It is under a Show-Cause Order from the Commission. On February 22, 2010, the Board of Trustees (the Board) of the Commission determined that the University may not meet one or more Criteria for Accreditation and ordered the institution to Show-Cause as to why its accreditation should not be removed. The areas of concern identified by the Board include but are not limited to the following:

- *Criterion One*, “the institution operates with integrity to ensure the fulfillment of its mission through structures and processes that involve the board, administration, faculty, staff and students.” In particular, the University may no longer meet Core Component 1.d, “the organization’s governance and administrative structures promote effective leadership and support collaborative processes that enable the organization to fulfill its mission,” and Core Component 1.e, “the organization upholds and protects its integrity”;
- *Criterion Two*, “the organization’s allocation of resources and its processes for evaluation and planning demonstrate its capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its education, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.” In particular, the University may no longer meet Core Component 2.b, “the organization’s resource base supports its educational programs and its plans for maintaining and strengthening their quality in the future,” and Core Component 2.d, “all levels of planning align with the organization’s mission, thereby enhancing its capacity to fulfill that mission”;
- *Criterion Three*, “the organization provides evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission.” In particular, the University may no longer meet Core Component 3.a, “the organization’s goals for student learning outcomes are clearly stated for each educational program and make effective assessment possible,” and 3.b, “the organization values and supports effective teaching.”

In issuing this order, the Board also removed the institution from Probation.

What is Show-Cause?

Show-Cause is a procedural order issued by the Commission that places the burden on the institution of proving it remains an entity that meets the Commission’s accreditation standards. An institution that cannot prove to the Commission within no more than one year of the issuance of the Order that it meets the Criteria for Accreditation faces withdrawal of accreditation. Show-Cause is not a sanction, and an institution under a Show-Cause Order from the Commission

remains accredited.

What are the next steps for Chancellor University in the Commission's processes?

Chancellor University must present its case for accreditation by means of a Show-Cause Report that provides substantive evidence that the institution has ameliorated each concern identified by the Board in this action and meets each of the Criteria for Accreditation and Core Components; this Show-Cause Report must include copies of documents related to governances, finances and planning, and assessment of student learning.

The Show-Cause Report must be in the Commission office by December 1, 2010. Following receipt of the Report the Commission will send an Evaluation Team in early January to the institution to validate the contents of the Show-Cause Report and determine if each of the concerns identified by the Board has been fully ameliorated. The Show-Cause Order will remain in effect until the Board reviews the Show-Cause Team Report, the University's Show-Cause Report, and its response to the Show-Cause Team Report at its February 2011 meeting.

Should the institution not file the Show-Cause Report or be unable to establish to the satisfaction of the Board that the institution meets each of the Criteria for Accreditation, the Board will move to withdraw accreditation of the institution.

What is the history of accreditation review that led to this situation?

Following the 2005 comprehensive evaluation visit, the Commission was monitoring enrollment and finances at Myers when the institution signaled that it might close. An infusion of capital allowed the institution to operate for another year; however, a 2007 focused evaluation team raised substantive concerns that warranted a recommendation for an On Notice sanction. Before the Board acted on the team recommendation, the institution announced its closure. That announcement led to intervention by the Court of Common Pleas in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, which effectively placed the University under control of a Special Master assigned by the court.

In February 2008, the Board notified Myers that it was considering withdrawing accreditation. The Board initiated a series of due process procedures to allow the institution to respond to these concerns. During these proceedings, representatives of Myers, with the support of the court, planned a change of ownership that was intended to address the primary concerns of the Commission. The Board of Trustees approved the change of ownership in August 2008, subject to further documentation and a focused evaluation visit. With the change of ownership, the institution became Chancellor University, and changed from nonprofit to for-profit status.

In October 2008, based on the finding that the University was in danger of not meeting Criterion One and Criterion Two, the Board placed Chancellor University on the sanction of Probation and set the next comprehensive visit for Fall 2009.

On February 22, 2010, following a comprehensive visit to the University on October 5-7, 2009, the Board issued a Show-Cause Order to the University, thereby removing the sanction of Probation.