



March 27, 2012

Interim President Clifton M Smart
Missouri State University
901 S. National
Springfield, MO 65897

Dear Interim President Smart:

This letter is formal notification of the action taken concerning Missouri State University by the Higher Learning Commission. At its meeting on March 19, 2012, the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) voted on the items below. This letter serves as the official record of this action, and the date of this action constitutes the effective date of your new status with the Commission.

Action. The IAC voted to approve the University's request to offer the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program.

If the current Commission action includes changes to your institution's *Statement of Affiliation Status (SAS)* or *Organizational Profile (OP)*, the changes will appear in these documents on the Commission's Web site by April 16, 2012. The *SAS* is a summary of your institution's ongoing relationship with the Commission. The *OP* is generated from data you provided in your most recent Institutional Update.

If you have questions about these documents after viewing them, please contact Karen J. Solomon, your staff liaison. Information about notifying the public of this action is found in Chapter 8.3-3 and 8.3-4 of the *Handbook of Accreditation, Third Edition*.

Please be aware of Commission policy on planned or proposed institutional changes that require Commission action before their initiation. You will find the Commission's change policy at ncahlc.org/information-for-institutions/institutional-change.html. If you have questions about how planned institutional changes might affect your relationship with the Commission, please write or call Karen J. Solomon.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you and your associates for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sylvia Manning".

Sylvia Manning
President

cc: Board Chair



Missouri State
U N I V E R S I T Y

October 31, 2011

Dr. Karen J. Solomon
Assistant Director for Accreditation Services
The Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1413

Dear Dr. Solomon:

Missouri State University is submitting an Institutional Change Request to initiate a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program with BSN to DNP and Post-masters DNP options. For 16 years, the University has had a successful Master of Science in Nursing family nurse practitioner program, which will be transitioned to the BSN to DNP. This change is needed to meet professional standards established by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), mandating the doctoral degree as the required level of preparation for advanced practice nursing by 2015.

Through responsible fiscal management, Missouri State University has strongly improved its financial reserves since 2005, when the institution received a 10-year continuing accreditation with no conditions or stipulations. The University has the resource base and capacity to support the development, implementation and accreditation of clinical doctorate programs. There currently are accredited clinical doctorates in Audiology and Physical Therapy, as well as a collaborative doctorate in education.

We are requesting that the Higher Learning Commission consider our Institutional Change Request. The focus of the proposed DNP program on community leadership and health disparities is consistent with our institutional mission, as well as the health-care needs of the region. I want to assure the Higher Learning Commission that this request has my full support.

Yours very truly,

Clifton M. Smart III
Interim President

mmd

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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