

June 28, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Nicky Michael
Interim President
Bacone College
2299 Old Bacone Rd.
Muskogee, OK 74403-1568

Dear President Michael:

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has reviewed the response submitted by Bacone College (“the Institution”) to my letter dated May 22, 2023. This response was submitted on June 5, 2023.

As you know, in that letter, HLC signaled its intent to assign the Financial Distress designation to the Institution based on the review of recent correspondence from the U.S. Department of Education (“the Department”). Specifically, as I explained, HLC was aware that by letter dated May 17, 2023, the Department informed the Institution that it was being placed on HCM 2 status and that it had been identified as “at risk” of sudden closure.

In its response to the May 22 letter, the Institution did not dispute the underlying information that led HLC to signal its intent to assign the designation, nor did it dispute that the designation is warranted in light of this information. While the Institution acknowledged the nature of its current financial situation, it also indicated that it was going to explore options to stabilize its finances.

Given the significant concerns that led HLC to signal its intent to assign the designation, and upon review of the response and in consultation with the Board of Trustees, HLC has determined that the Financial Distress designation will be assigned in this case.

As a result, the Statement of Accreditation Status for Bacone College will indicate that it is currently in financial distress. A copy of the related Public Disclosure Notice (PDN), which will be posted within one business day of the date of this letter, is enclosed for your reference.

As you know, the Institution is currently scheduled to host a Focused Visit no later than November 2023 on various HLC requirements, including Criterion Five, Core Component 5.B. HLC anticipates that the designation will remain in place until the Focused Visit process concludes. Once final action is taken on the Focused Visit by an appropriate decision-making body, HLC will determine whether the designation can be removed or if other action is necessary.

President Michael, June 28, 2023 2

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact your HLC Staff Liaison, Dr. John Marr.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Gellman-Danley".

Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

Enc: Public Disclosure Notice

Cc: Rebecca Truelove, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, Bacone College
John Marr, Vice President of Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission
Anthea Sweeney, Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Higher Learning
Commission
Marla Morgen, General Counsel, Higher Learning Commission