



March 5, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Mitchell Daniels
President
Purdue University
Hovde Hall of Administration
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2040

Dr. Betty Vandebosch, President
Kaplan University
1801 E. Kimberly Rd., Suite 1
Davenport, IA 52807

Dear Presidents Daniels and Vandebosch:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (“HLC” or “the Commission”) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Purdue University and Kaplan University (“the institutions”). At its meeting on February 22, 2018, the Board voted to approve the extension of accreditation under the Commission’s policy on Change of Control, Structure or Organization related to the application wherein Purdue University, through its affiliate Purdue NewU, Inc., acquires certain assets of Kaplan University, with the successor of Kaplan University to henceforth be owned and operated by Purdue University as a separately accredited institution known as Purdue University Global. In taking this action, the Board considered materials submitted to the Commission including the Change of Control request, comments received during the comment period, the Summary Report, and the institutions’ responses to the Summary Report.

The Board approved the application subject to the condition that, as required by Commission policy and federal regulation, the institutions host focused evaluations within six months of the date of this transaction. The evaluation will be focused on the appropriateness of the approval and the institutions’ compliance with any commitments made in the Change of Control application and with the Eligibility Requirements and the Criteria for Accreditation, with specific focus on Core Components 2.A, 2.B, 2.C, 5.B, and 5.C, with regard to the following:

- Core Component 2.A: Evidence of Purdue University Global’s adoption and implementation of and adherence to a comprehensive set of policies that are fully aligned with Purdue University expectations.

- Core Component 2.B: Evidence that Purdue University Global has mechanisms in place that monitor the representations made to continuing and prospective students related to program requirements, transfer and/or articulation within the Purdue University system, and admission to graduate programs at Purdue University Global.
- Core Component 2.C: Evidence that confirms the autonomy of the Purdue University Global Board and that it operates independently in accordance with Bylaws as approved by the Purdue University Global Board of Trustees.
- Core Component 5.B: Evidence that confirms that a larger group of Purdue University administrators, faculty and staff, beyond the Advisory Committee, have the opportunity to support the integration of Purdue University Global into the Purdue University system.
- Core Component 5.C: Evidence that confirms that Purdue University has revised its strategic plan to include priorities reflecting Purdue University Global and this major initiative, including the aligned allocation of resources, established priorities, enrollment projections, timelines, and integration into the Purdue academic enterprise.

The Board maintained Purdue University on the Open Pathway, with its next comprehensive evaluation for Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2019-20.

The Board placed Purdue University Global on the Standard Pathway with its next comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation in 2022-23.

In addition, it should be noted that the legal and tax status of a corporation (whether it is profit, not-for-profit or public benefit) is a matter of law as determined by an appropriate state or federal governmental entity. Therefore, HLC makes no statement through this action about the legal or tax status of Purdue University Global.

Please send the Commission written notice of the closing date within 24 hours after the transaction has closed. You are also obligated to notify the Commission prior to closing if any of the material terms of this transaction have changed or appear likely to change. By Commission policy the closing must take place within no more than thirty days from the date of the Board's approval. If there is any delay such that the transaction cannot close within this time frame, you must notify the Commission as soon as possible.

Commission policy COMM.A.10.010, Commission Public Notices and Statements, requires that HLC prepare a summary of actions to be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations and published on its website. The summary will include HLC Board action regarding the institutions. The institutions are also encouraged to prepare statements to their constituencies regarding this action; I ask that you copy your HLC Staff Liaisons, Dr. Mary Vanis (Purdue University) and Dr. Anthea Sweeney (Purdue University Global), on any such communication.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you and your associates for your cooperation. Please contact Dr. Vanis or Dr. Sweeney if you have questions about any of the information in this letter.

Sincerely,

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

Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Purdue University
Chair of the Board of Trustees, Kaplan University
Diane Beaudoin, Director of Institutional Assessment, Purdue University
Michael Machen, Vice President of Accreditation, Kaplan University
Ken Sauer, Senior Associate Commissioner for Research and Academic Affairs,
Indiana Commission for Higher Education
Michael Frola, Director, Foreign Schools Participation Division, U.S. Department of
Education
Evaluation team members
Anthea Sweeney, Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs, Higher Learning
Commission
Mary Vanis, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission