



January 25, 2019

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VIA EMAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

acics@lincolnuca.edu

Dr. Mikhail Brodsky
President
Lincoln University
401 15th Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Show-Cause Directive – Institutional Integrity

Dear Dr. Brodsky:

In response to an inquiry, ACICS conducted a review of Lincoln University's (LU) web site and found that the doctoral degree in Business Administration (DBA) program is being advertised as actively recruiting students with no disclaimer on ACICS's previously communicated directive. The Council further notes the chronology of events below:

1. In its May 2017 correspondence to all institutions offering doctoral degrees, the Council required the prominent postage and distribution of notice to current and prospective students to advise them of the permanent moratorium on doctoral programs, and a credible plan and path to completion for all enrollees. Institutions were advised that if the conditions were not satisfied, the institution will be subject to an adverse action.
2. In its May 2017 communication to ACICS concerning its doctoral activity, the institution was opposed to the phase-out and shared that doctoral students were scheduled to graduate through 2019. The institution indicated that it had suspended enrollment in the DBA program but would resume accepting students after receiving candidacy status from either the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) or International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE).
3. The institution voluntarily withdrew its accreditation from ACICS on August 2, 2017.
4. In April 2018, the institution made a request for reinstatement of its accreditation and in its May 7, 2018, submission of materials, the following DBA information was provided (Attachment 5.1) for the Council's consideration:

"Active for teaching existing students only through the end of 2019. No new enrollment since 2017."

There were 17 students enrolled at the time of this submission.

5. The institution's accreditation was reinstated on May 17, 2018. The Quality Assurance Visit (QAV), which was a required component of the reinstatement, was conducted on July 24, 2018. The team's report noted that the DBA program had two (2) part-time students enrolled at that time.
6. A review of the institution's 2018 Campus Accountability Report (CAR) for the 2017-2018 reporting year shows the following six (6) students as **January 2018** starts in the doctoral program, all of whom are on student visas with scheduled to graduate dates in 2023:
 - a. Abdupattoev, Ikhtiyorjon; Student ID 8368
 - b. Bhatia, Sumit; Student ID 8588
 - c. Cengiz, Sinan; Student ID 10855
 - d. Nkomo, Mteule Amon; Student ID 10807 (withdrawn)
 - e. Ramteke, Gunjan Vasant; Student ID 10325
 - f. Yagtu, Cumali; Student ID 13907

These new students were in the program for four months prior to the institution's request for reinstatement. As noted above, in that request, the institution attested that there were no new enrollments since 2017.

7. To date, the institution's website, at the pages below, is actively admitting students to and promoting the doctoral program with no disclosure identified of ACICS' permanent moratorium and LU's corresponding plans for the program, and the institution's accreditation:
<http://www.lincolnuca.edu/admission/index#/admission/dbaadmreqs>
<http://www.lincolnuca.edu/academics/index#%2Facademics%2Findex>.
8. The online catalog also includes the doctoral program (page 54) without reference to not accepting applications and a phase-out for current students or its plans to find alternative institutional accreditation:
<http://www.lincolnuca.edu/academics/index#%2Facademics%2Findex>

Council Action

The Council considers institutional integrity and capability to be manifested by the professional competence, personal responsibility, and ethical practices demonstrated by all individuals comprising the management (Section 3-1-202); and expects all representations by the institution to be accurate and consistent with ACICS directives (Sections 3-1-700 and 3-1-701 and Appendix C). Therefore, the Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the Council, directs the institution to show cause in writing why its current grant of accreditation should not be withdrawn by suspension for deviating from the *Accreditation Criteria* and the directives of ACICS (Section 2-3-402(e)).

The institution must provide the appropriate in-writing show-cause review fee, as outlined in the Hearing/Review Fees section of the “Schedule of Fees” listing on the ACICS website and its notification of intent to respond **within ten (10) business days of receipt of this notice**, by **February 8, 2019**. Failure to do so will be considered a deviation from the directives of ACICS and result in a withdrawal by suspension action in accordance with Section 2-3-402 of the Accreditation Criteria.

In response to the show-cause directive, the institution must submit the following information via the online show-cause application, no later than **February 28, 2019**:

1. Narrative on its failure to truthfully disclose the ongoing admission activity into the DBA program.
2. A timeline on its intent to secure alternative accreditation by December 31, 2019, along with a status report on its ability to make that deadline.
3. Copies of communication to the students identified above concerning the status of the DBA program as it relates to ACICS approval.
4. Copies of an institutional catalog, web pages, and other promotional documents revised to accurately reflect the status of the doctoral program.
5. The link to the institution’s webpage where the show-cause directive has been posted as well as copies of the notice to current and prospective students of the show-cause status.

The response materials must be received via the online show-cause application in the institution’s account by the date indicated above. Failure to provide all information requested by the Council may result in the withdrawal of the institution’s accreditation.

Institutional Teach-Out Plan

In accordance with the expectations of Section 2-3-230 of the *Accreditation Criteria*, the institution **must** submit, via the show-cause application, a teach-out plan which includes the following:

- a. A listing of students with the student name; program of study; expected graduation date; and status of unearned tuition, status of refunds due, and current account balance for each student.
- b. A listing of comparable programs offered at other nearby institutions in the event that teach-out agreements or transfer arrangements are needed for students to complete their programs elsewhere.

Dr. Mikhail Brodsky

January 25, 2019

Page 4 of 4

- c. Identification of a custodian for all permanent academic records in case of closure that includes contact information for this individual or entity and the process by which students can obtain their records.
- d. A description of the financial resources available to ensure that students can complete their programs or receive refunds if the institution does cease operations.

The Council is obligated to take adverse action against any institution that fails to come into compliance with the *Accreditation Criteria* within the established time frames without good cause. Please consult the Introduction of Title II, Chapter 3 of the *Accreditation Criteria* for additional information.

Please contact Ms. Perliter Walters-Gilliam at pwgilliam@acics.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Edwards". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Michelle Edwards
President and CEO

- c: Ms. Cathy Sheffield, Accreditation and State Liaison, U.S. Department of Education
Dr. Michael Marion Jr., California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
(michael.marion@dca.ca.gov)
Ms. Katherine Westerlund and Mr. James Hicks, U.S. Immigration and Customs
Enforcement, Student and Exchange Visitor Program
(katherine.h.westerlund@ice.dhs.gov) (james.d.hicks@ice.dhs.gov)