07/02/2014

Dr. Jack Thomas
President
Western Illinois University
1 University Circle
209 Sherman Hall
Macomb, IL 61455-1390

Dear President Thomas:

A Change Panel has reviewed the change application from Western Illinois University to close the Western IL Univ Quad Cities branch campus at 3561 60th Street, Moline, IL 61265-5881 and promote the Western Illinois University-Quad Cities Riverfront Campus additional location to a branch campus. In addition, Commission staff has reviewed both the Panel’s work and recommendation. The Change Panel has recommended to the Institutional Actions Council your request to be approved. Your change is not approved until final action by the IAC and until you receive the dated action letter. The Panel’s report is attached.

The Institutional Actions Council (IAC), a Commission decision-making body, will act on the Panel’s recommendation on August 11, 2014. As allowed for by policy, the institution can submit a written institutional response. The IAC will consider the institutional response and may agree with or revise the Panel’s recommendations.

Please complete and return the enclosed form, along with any additional written response, to the following webpage: http://www.ncahlc.org/document_upload/ not later than two weeks from the date of this letter. The institution’s response becomes part of the official record of the evaluation and is included in the materials sent to the decision process.

If the Commission does not receive a response within two weeks, it will conclude that the institution concurs with the accreditation recommendation and will forward the appropriate materials to the IAC for review and action. More information on the Commission’s decision process is provided on the attached form and available on the Commission’s website (www.ncahlc.org).

We encourage you to review the Panel's comments and to contact your Commission liaison if you have questions.

Higher Learning Commission of NCA
# Change Panel

## Substantive Change Recommendation Form

After the panel achieves consensus, the Primary Reader completes this form to summarize and document the panel’s view. Notes and evidence should be essential and concise — a bullet or two, 50 words maximum.

Submit the completed application as a single electronic document (in Adobe PDF format) on the following webpage: [http://www.ncahlc.org/document_upload/](http://www.ncahlc.org/document_upload/).

## Institution: Western Illinois University  City, State: Macomb, IL  Date Submitted: 05/29/2014

## Change Requested:
Close a branch campus at 3561 60th Street in Moline, Illinois, open a branch campus at 3300 River Drive in Moline, IL and close an additional location at 3300 River Drive in Moline, IL

## Part A: Analysis  (See Part 1: General Questions in change application)

1. **Classification of Change(s)**
   - [x] Complete
   - [ ] Incomplete

   Notes or additions if marked incomplete:

2. **Special Conditions**
   - [x] Complete
   - [ ] Incomplete

   Notes or additions if marked incomplete:

3. **Required Approvals**
   - [x] Complete
   - [ ] Incomplete

   Notes or additions if marked incomplete:
4. For Contractual Arrangements

| Complete | Incomplete |

Check all that apply:

- [ ] on-ground delivery
- [ ] distance education
- [ ] correspondence education
- [ ] off-campus delivery
- [ ] other: [ ]

Notes or additions if marked incomplete:

NA

5. Key Services Provided by Partner

| Complete | Incomplete |

Notes or additions if marked incomplete:

NA

6. Level of Programming and Enrollment Affected

| Complete | Incomplete |

Notes or additions if marked incomplete:

NA

7. Overall Proportion of Affected Programs Provided by Partner

| Complete | Incomplete |

Notes or additions if marked incomplete:

NA

8. Essential Elements. The categories below relate to the evidence expected across subsections of Part 2 of the change application.

a. Planning and Design of the proposed change

- [x] Acceptable
- [ ] Acceptable if Modified
- [ ] Not Acceptable

Evidence:

- Planning for the change began in 2001 when the Commission's On-Site Review Team found the 60th Street Campus was approaching maximum physical capacity
- Plan was approved by the Board of Trustees in 2008
- Part of WIU Strategic Plan
- Funding was provided by the State in 2009 as part of a phased plan of implementation
- The request is part of The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success (statewide strategic plan)

b. Capacity for the proposed change
Adoptable

Acceptable if Modified

Not Acceptable

Evidence:

* Funding provided by Institution
* Funding provided by State
* Funding provided by John Deere Company
* Institution has a history of success at the new location as an additional location

c. Services and Support for the proposed change

Acceptable

Acceptable if Modified

Not Acceptable

Evidence:

All necessary services to be provided at the new branch campus are services already in existance at the current location and will simply be moved to the new site.

d. Evaluation, Assessment and Improvement Processes for the proposed change

Acceptable

Acceptable if Modified

Not Acceptable

Evidence:

WIU uses course and faculty evaluations, annual assessment of student learning outcomes, general education assessment, new and existing program reviews, alumni surveys, and discipline specific accreditations (where appropriate to the discipline) to assess, review, and evaluate quality in all courses and programs. The most recent HLC visit, in 2010, found no issues with assessment and evaluation.

e. Quality and Integrity of the proposed change

Acceptable

Acceptable if Modified

Not Acceptable

Evidence:

The proposed change has been well-planned over a span of 13 years, appropriately funded, and based on a recognized necessity by the HLC team. In its simplest form, the institution intends to close its current branch campus, move that to the new facility (which is currently an additional location) and close the additional location. This move is much more physical, than academic. However, the plan includes a teach-out agreement to assure that students at the campus that is being closed, will be appropriately cared for.

Part B: Recommendation and Rationale

Recommendation:

Approve Request
Form: Change Panel – Substantive Change Recommendation Form

☐ Approve Modified Request
☐ Deny Request

Note: In the exceptional circumstance that the panel concurs that a decision requires information only available through an on-site visit, check here ☐.

Explain the determination in the rationale section below, and submit the form without completing the other sections. Commission staff will review the recommendation for an on-site visit for appropriateness and for consistency with Commission practice and may contact the panel.

Rationale for the panel’s recommendation (100 words maximum): If the recommendation is a modification of the institution’s request, make clear how the panel modified the original request.

The branch campus at 60th street was recognized in 2001 as having reached physical capacity. Institutional and State planning developed a phased plan to close the current location and move to one that allows the institution to serve more students while allowing for potential growth. The plan has reached the end of phase II which will allow for moving all faculty, staff, and services to the newly completed location on River Drive. The institution has all the necessary approvals, the funding, and the capacity to complete the move and to offer programs at the new location.

Clarification of Information: If applicable, identify the date and topics of any requests for clarification or communication with the institution and the results.

Organizational Profile: If the request indicates an addition to the Organizational Profile, identify it here.

Stipulations or limitations on future accreditation relationships: If recommending a change in an institution's level for review of future changes (locations, programs, delivery, etc.), state both the old and new level and provide a brief rationale for the recommended change. Check the Statement of Affiliation Status for the current wording.

Monitoring: In limited circumstances, the panel may call for a follow-up report (progress, monitoring, or interim). (Note that some types of substantive changes have built-in follow-up reviews; for example, the Campus Evaluation Visit.) If the panel concurs that a report is necessary, indicate below the topic, timeline, and expectations for that report.

Rationale for Denial: If recommending denial of the request, explain what was inadequate.