



June 15, 2022

Dr. Ellen Kennedy
President
Berkshire Community College
1350 West Street
Pittsfield MA 01201-5786

Dear President Kennedy:

I write to inform you that at its meeting on April 21, 2022, the New England Commission of Higher Education considered the report submitted by Berkshire Community College and took the following action:

that the report submitted by Berkshire Community College be accepted;

that the interim (fifth-year) report scheduled for consideration in Fall 2024 be confirmed;

that, in addition to the information included in all interim reports, as well as the matters specified in our letter of March 20, 2020, the institution give emphasis, in the Fall 2024 report, to its continued progress in addressing the two areas identified for emphasis (establishing learning outcomes and reorganizing its committee structure) in the Spring 2022 report;

that the comprehensive evaluation scheduled for Fall 2029 be confirmed.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its action.

The report submitted by Berkshire Community College was accepted because it was responsive to the concerns raised by the Commission in its letter of March 20, 2020.

The Commission commends Berkshire Community College (BCC) for its thorough and well-written report, and we note with favor the significant progress the College has made on both of the areas identified for emphasis. In addition to helping faculty transition to online teaching during the pandemic, the Center for Teaching and Learning Innovation (CTLI) has supported faculty to develop and embed learning outcomes within their courses. Focused attention has been given to aligning outcomes of multiple-section courses to ensure consistency, and we are pleased to learn that 72% of such courses now have aligned outcomes with another 23% in process. In addition, in 2019 the program review process was revised to require that each program include a curriculum map to show where learning outcomes are present throughout the curriculum.

Dr. Ellen Kennedy

June 15, 2022

Page 2

With respect to governance, we note with favor that, during the Fall 2021 term, the vice president for academic affairs began a planning process for the College's first "academic master plan" with the intention of "achieving a shared vision for best practices in Academic Affairs, including learning outcomes assessment." The Commission is pleased to learn from the report that a Shared Governance Working Group, which included two external consultants, conducted surveys and interviews regarding the governance structure at BCC and, through a process that included sharing three drafts with the campus community, was successful in proposing a structure, definition, and charge for a Shared Governance Council that will have five subcommittees: Academic; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Planning, Innovation, and Effectiveness; Security, Infrastructure, Finance and Technology; and, Student Affairs. We understand that the "formal roll-out" of this new governance model is planned for Spring 2022 with most membership being "temporary" while the College "pilot(s) the model and establish(es) meeting cycles and membership terms."

Commission policy requires an interim (fifth-year) report of all institutions on a decennial evaluation cycle. Its purpose is to provide the Commission an opportunity to appraise the institution's current status in keeping with the policy on Periodic Review. Berkshire Community College is asked, in the Fall 2024 report, to give emphasis to its continued success in addressing the two areas specified for attention in the Spring 2022 report. We look forward, in the Fall 2024 report, to being apprised of BCC's continued progress in "advancing the culture and practice of assessment" and to learning more regarding the "efficacy and satisfaction of the new model" of shared governance.

Finally, the scheduling of a comprehensive evaluation in Fall 2029 is consistent with Commission policy requiring each accredited institution to undergo a comprehensive evaluation at least once every ten years.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the report submitted by Berkshire Community College and hopes that its preparation has contributed to institutional improvement. It appreciates your cooperation with the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education.

You are encouraged to share this letter with all of the institution's constituencies. It is Commission policy to inform the chairperson of the institution's governing board and the head of the system of action on its accreditation status. In a few days we will be sending a copy of this letter to Julia Bowen and Carlos Santiago. The institution is free to release information about the report and the Commission's action to others, in accordance with the enclosed policy on Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions.

If you have any questions about the Commission's action, please contact Lawrence M. Schall, President of the Commission.

Sincerely,



George W. Tetler
GWT/sjp

cc: Julia Bowen
Carlos Santiago

Enclosure: Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions