



ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR BUSINESS SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

Bringing Together Those Dedicated to Teaching Excellence

June 9, 2015

Ms. Jillene Cunningham
Department Co-Chair
Hutchinson College and Area Vocational School
1300 North Plum Street
Hutchinson, Kansas 67501

Dear Ms. Cunningham:

The Associate Degree Board of Commissioners met on April 16-17, 2015, and reviewed your quality assurance report. After review, the board voted to accept the report with one condition, notes, and opportunities for improvement and provided the following comments:

Condition on Overview Item 09: The business unit offers three 32-credit certificates as well as associate's degrees. From the institution's answer to O4, it appears that they believe the certificate programs are accredited by ACBSP. This is not the case. The statement on the "Business Programs" page on the college's website should specify the business degree programs accredited by ACBSP. Also, there is no evidence of how achievement of student learning outcomes is being reported to the public.

Note on Criterion 4.1: Only 3 semesters of data were presented for the Business Management and Entrepreneurship program and the most recent data was from Fall 2011. There should be more recent data.

Note on Criterion 5.2: Maintain the note.

- Bartel has a bachelor's degree in-field, but no master's. She is identified as professionally qualified but two acceptable areas of qualification are not identified.
- Ellis has a master's out-of-field (master's in teaching), but there is no way to know if the individual can be master's qualified because only work experience is listed as an area of qualification. A second acceptable area of qualification is not cited.
- Evans has a bachelor's in business education and no master's. She is identified as professionally qualified, but only employment (customer service representative) is listed as an area of qualification with no second area listed.
- Warner has a bachelor's in business, a bachelor's in education, and no master's. She is identified as professionally qualified, but no acceptable areas of qualification are cited. Only her employment as a high school accounting instructor is cited, but this is not in-field employment and no second area of qualification is cited.

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- Wohletz has a bachelor's in business education and no master's. She is identified as professionally qualified, but no acceptable areas of qualification are cited. Only her employment as a high school business instructor is cited, but this is not in-field employment and no second area of qualification is cited.

Opportunities for improvement should be viewed as suggestions to move your program to a higher level of excellence. It is extremely rare for a school to receive accreditation without conditions, notes, or opportunities for improvement given ACBSP's Core Value of Continuous Improvement and Organizational Learning, that "Business schools and programs should pursue regular cycles of planning, execution, and evaluation of every process and system. Ongoing improvement of these processes and systems leads to ever higher quality and student/stakeholder satisfaction." The opportunities for improvement in your programs are:

OFI on Standard 4: Please provide evidence of deploying at least one outcome for each program.

OFI on Standard 6: We suggest raising the benchmark or moving to a new outcome when you consistently meet your target for 5 for more years.

The Condition must be removed by 2/15/2019. Progress on notes and conditions including the existing notes on Criterion 4.1 regarding the data collection process and Criterion 5.2 must be reported in future QA reports until they are removed. It is not necessary to report on OFIs.

Your next Quality Assurance report will be due 2/15/2017 and your reaffirmation is scheduled for 2021.

Any questions regarding the board's response should be directed to Larry Zachrich by phone at 419-966-7091 or by email at lzachrich@acbsp.org.

We hope to see you at the 2015 ACBSP Annual Conference, which will be held at the Downtown Marriott in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania June 12-15, 2015. Additional information will be available on our website at www.acbsp.org beginning January 2015.

ACBSP is looking forward to our continued relationship with Hutchinson College and Area Vocational School. Thank you for providing quality business programs for your students. We are happy to have you as one of our valued members.

Sincerely,



Steve Parscale, Ph.D.
Chief Accreditation Officer

c: Mr. Dan Naccarato, Program Coordinator, Co-Champion