



Middle States Commission on Higher Education

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Statement on Commission Action with Regard to Cheyney University

On November 16, 2017, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted to extend the period for demonstrating compliance with the Commission's Standards and Requirements of Affiliation by one year, for good cause, because Cheyney University has demonstrated significant progress towards the resolution of its non-compliance issues, is making a good faith effort to remedy existing deficiencies, and a reasonable expectation exists that such deficiencies will be remedied within the period of the extension. The specific requirement and standards are available in the text of the action and in the FAQ document we have prepared, both of which are posted at

<https://www.msche.org/?Nav1=NEWS&Nav2=NEWSROOM&Nav3=CHEYNEYUNIVERSITY&strPageName=STATEMENT%20ON%20CHEYNEY%20UNIVERSITY>

Cheyney University has demonstrated that it now meets the Commission's standard regarding planning, resource allocation and institutional renewal and also meets the standard regarding administration. However, Cheyney University is not in compliance with the Commission's standards demonstrating resources necessary to achieve the university's goals. The Commission wants to be sure that Cheyney University has the human, financial, technical, facilities, and other resources necessary to achieve and sustain its ability to support its mission, goals, and objectives, and that it uses its resources efficiently and effectively, including providing sufficient learning opportunities and resources to support its programs of study and students' academic progress.

In addition, the Commission determined that Cheyney University has not met requirements to demonstrate its overall financial health. Specifically, the university needs to show the Commission that its resources, funding base, and plans for financial development are adequate to support current and future educational purposes and programs and to assure financial stability.

These standards and requirements must be met by all of the institutions accredited by MSCHE. Cheyney University is fully aware of the standards and the issues that need to be addressed. It will need to show the Commission that it is addressing each of these issues by September 1, 2018 or risk having its accreditation withdrawn.

Also by that date, Cheyney University must submit an updated teach out plan showing how it will ensure that its students can transfer to other accredited institutions to complete their education should the Commission decide to withdraw its accreditation.

The Commission will review what Cheyney University provides, along with the results of an upcoming team visit to the university. The Commission will give the University a

chance to respond to questions and concerns at a meeting of the entire Commission in November 2018.

At the November 2018 meeting, the Commission will have two options for accreditation action: (1) if Cheyney University has demonstrated that it is in compliance with the Commission's Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation, the Commission would act to reaffirm the institution's accreditation; (2) if, however, the institution cannot demonstrate that it is in compliance, the Commission will withdraw Cheyney's accreditation, since an extension for good cause is a one-time option available to an institution that was unable to achieve compliance before the end of the federally required two-year period. (Cheyney was placed on probation by the Commission at its November 19, 2015 meeting.) Should the Commission decide to withdraw accreditation, the university would then have the right to appeal.

We want to be clear. The Commission has not withdrawn Cheyney University's accreditation. Cheyney University continues to be accredited during the period of extension for good cause. We are following the process that the government requires us to take to protect students and be fair to institutions. Withdrawing accreditation from a college is not an action that the Commission takes lightly, nor a decision made in haste. But we are bound by our duty to take action in the public interest if an institution falls short of Commission standards or requirements. The decision will be based not on politics or any other factor but clear evidence about whether or not the university meets the standards and requirements that we have cited.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) is a non-governmental, voluntary membership association that promotes educational excellence across institutions with diverse missions, student populations, and resources. It examines each institution as a whole, rather than focusing only on specific programs of study offered by an institution. MSCHE is recognized by the United States Secretary of Education to accredit post-secondary, degree-granting institutions in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Commission's membership consists of 526 colleges and universities, including large public and private universities, numerous community colleges, private liberal arts colleges, religious seminaries, several federally-sponsored institutions, and several private, for-profit institutions.