

Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools

Accreditation Commission Meeting

The Founders Inn and Spa
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

April 11-13, 2010

ACCREDITATION COMMISSION ACTION

REAFFIRMATION II

The following institution was granted **Reaffirmation II** by the TRACS Accreditation Commission after completing a successful self-study and being evaluated by an on-site evaluation team:

Piedmont Baptist College and Graduate School (420 South Broad Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101) appeared before the TRACS Accreditation Commission on April 13, 2010, and was granted Reaffirmation II Status as a Category IV institution (approved to offer certificates, the Associate, Bachelors, Masters and doctoral degrees, plus distance learning) without conditions.

Reaffirmation II is for a ten-year period through 2020. Within this period, Piedmont Baptist College and Graduate School must complete a mid-term QCRR analysis report, conduct a self-study, host an on-site team evaluation and appear before the Accreditation Commission for Reaffirmation III status.

REAFFIRMATION I

Pacific Islands University (172 Kinney's Road, Mangilao, Guam, P.O. Box 22619, Barrigada, Guam, 96921). At the meeting on April 13, 2010, the TRACS Accreditation Commission approved the action of the Executive Committee on December 8, 2010, to grant Reaffirmation I Status as a Category III institution approved to offer certificates, Diplomas, the Associate, Bachelors and Masters degrees, plus distance learning programs. The Commission directed the Institution to continue working with TRACS Staff to come into significant compliance with the following Standards:

- Institutional Effectiveness (5.2;10.3a,10.b; 10.7; 11.2; 24.1 – 4; 24.5a-c)
- Policies, Procedures and Publications (10.17)

Reaffirmation I is for a ten-year period through 2019. Within this period, Pacific Islands University must complete a mid-term QCRR analysis report, conduct a self-study, host an on-site team evaluation and appear before the Accreditation Commission for Reaffirmation II status.

CANDIDACY

The following institutions were granted **Candidacy** by the TRACS Accreditation Commission after completing a successful self-study and being evaluated by an on-site evaluation team:

Faith Theological Seminary (529 Walker Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21212) appeared before the TRACS Accreditation Commission on April 13, 2010, and was granted Candidacy Status as a Category IV institution (approved to offer the Associate, Bachelor, Masters and doctoral degrees) with the condition that Faith Theological Seminary submit a Progress Report addressing the following conditions:

- The institution must submit a comprehensive plan with a timetable--not to exceed three years--demonstrating compliance with Standards 14.1, 14.4 and 15.1. Faculty must possess the appropriate academic credentials and experience for their teaching assignments at the undergraduate and graduate levels. TRACS staff will work with you to identify various methods which you may utilize to come into compliance.
- The institution must submit an analysis of other institutions which assures that the Th.D. is in compliance with national norms. Materials from these institutions should be submitted along with the analysis.
- TRACS will perform a Focus Visit along with librarians from two institutions who offer the Th.D. degree to assess the collection of your institution and assure that it is adequate to support this program.
- The institution must submit an audit indicating that revenues are in excess of expenditures for the 2009-2010 year.

Paul Quinn College (3837 Simpson Stuart Road, Dallas, TX 75241), currently accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools with the status of member on Probation, appeared before the TRACS Accreditation Commission on April 13, 2010, and was granted Candidacy Status as a Category II institution, approved to offer certificates, the Associate and Bachelor degrees. While the TRACS approval is without conditions, the Accreditation Commission required that Paul Quinn College keep the TRACS office informed of each step in the process of their appeal of SACS' decision to remove their accreditation.

Within the next five years, Faith Theological Seminary and Paul Quinn College must complete a Self-Study, host an on-site evaluation team visit and appear before the Accreditation Commission for accredited status by November 2015.

DEFERRED

Eastern Carolina Christian College (P.O. Box 1131, Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870) appeared before the TRACS Accreditation Commission on April 13, 2010. The Accreditation Commission voted to defer Candidacy to Eastern Carolina Christian College as a Category III institution. While Eastern Carolina Christian College is making tremendous progress in coming into compliance with the TRACS standards and addressing the

Recommendations from the Visiting Team, specifically the Institution is not in basic compliance with the following TRACS Standards:

- The curriculum must be adequately supported by the institution (Standard 10.9)
- There must be one full-time contracted, academically and spiritually qualified faculty or each major/program offered, including general education, to teach and provide teaching-related duties, such as advising and curricular oversight needed for the institution to fulfill its purpose. The term “full-time contracted,” as applied here is interpreted as being a faculty member who is not contracted full-time by another college or institution, and whose job responsibilities are specifically spelled out in the contract and a job description.(Standard 14.1)
- The faculty must possess the appropriate academic credentials and experiences for their teaching assignments. (Standard 14.4)
- Faculty involved in teaching and curricular-advising assignments at the master’s and doctoral levels must be academically and professionally qualified. (Standard 15.1)

Eastern Carolina Christian College must appear before the TRACS Accreditation Commission in November 2010 to demonstrate basic compliance.

SHOW CAUSE

Midwest University (851 Parr Road, Wentzville, MO 63385) a Category IV institution, approved to offer certificates, the Associate, Bachelors, Masters, Specialists, and Doctoral degrees, along with distance learning programs, appeared before the TRACS Accreditation Commission on April 13, 2010. The Accreditation Commission voted to require Midwest University to Show Cause why its accreditation should not be revoked due to Midwest’s failure to adhere to its own admission and graduation requirements, plus failing to comply with the following TRACS Standards

- All degree programs offered must include an appropriate general education core (Standard 10.14)
- Admissions requirements must be clearly specified for all curricula and are current and in keeping with accepted practice (Standard 10.15)
- Ability-to-benefit criteria must exist and be in use (Standard 10.17),
- Graduate admission requirements for all programs must be clearly specified in graduate catalogs, brochures and other printed material (Standard 11.9)
- Graduate academic policies must be clearly and specifically published in handbooks, catalogs, and other college publications (Standard 11.12)
- A procedure for the transfer of credit for graduate programs must be in place (Standard 11.15)
- Graduate admission requirements for all degree programs must be clearly specified in writing (Standard 11.16).

The Accreditation Commission determined that Midwest University’s must appear before the Commission in November 2010 to demonstrate compliance.

REMOVAL OF ACCREDITATION

Saint Petersburg Theological Seminary (10830 Navajo Drive, Saint Petersburg, FL 33708) In November 2008, the Accreditation Commission granted St. Petersburg Theological Seminary Reaffirmation I, but placed them on Warning for one year. The Seminary, a Category IV institution, approved to offer certificates, the Bachelor's, Master's and doctoral degrees, along with distance learning programs, appeared before the TRACS Accreditation Commission on April 13, 2010. At this April 2010 meeting, the Commission voted to remove Saint Petersburg Theological Seminary's accreditation. Specifically, the Commission found that Saint Petersburg Theological Seminary is not in substantive compliance with the following TRACS Standards:

- Finances continue to hinder SPTS from adequately supporting its purpose and programs. Programs must be adequately supported by finances. (Standard 18.4)
- Finances are not adequate to demonstrate the future continuity of SPTS. (Standard 18.9)
- Your institution's low ratio score (0.3) computed by the Department of Education and required to be above 1.5, continues to show that SPTS is not financially sound. (DOE Regulations)
- Progress Reports and documentation submitted which indicate the steps your institution has taken in response to the "show cause" action taken by the Commission fail to remedy the previously identified deficiencies and come into substantial compliance with the Accreditation Standards and address the current financial problems of SPTS. Long-range projections, including finances, are based on programs not currently in place and do not give confidence that the financial conditions will improve. (Standard 18.9)
- The institution fails to have in place the full-time personnel required of Standards 6.3 and 25.4.

Within two weeks, Saint Petersburg Theological Seminary is required to submit a teach-out plan to TRACS for those students who choose to leave the Institution as a result of the action taken by the Commission to revoke accreditation.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES

The following institutions were **granted approval** for substantive changes:

Central Baptist Theological Seminary of MN (900 Forestview Lane N., Plymouth MN 55441)

- *To change delivery method for M.Div. to week-long modular courses—effective March 22, 2010*
- *To change in credit hours of courses offered in Systematic Theology Dept.—effective March 22, 2010*

Community Christian College (251 Tennessee Street, Redlands, CA 92373)

- *To add a new teaching site:—effective February 12, 2010*
CrossPoint Christian Reformed Church
6950 Edison Avenue
Chino, CA 91710

International Baptist College (2211 West German Road, Chandler, AZ 85286)

- To relocate the institution to 2211 Germann Road, Chandler, Arizona 85286—effective February 9, 2010

Lutheran Brethren Seminary (815 West Vernon Avenue, Fergus Falls, MN 56537)

- To Add a Diploma in Christian Ministry (non-degree)—effective April 11-13, 2010
- To Add a “Non-Degree Applicant” Category to M. Div Adm. Policy—effective April 11-13,2010
- To Discontinue Bachelor of Theology Degree Completion—effective April 11-13,2010

New Life Theological Seminary (P.O. Box 790106, Charlotte, NC 28206)

- To offer a Master of Divinity Program with emphases in Chaplaincy, Pastoral Counseling and Pastoral Studies—effective February 11, 2010

Pacific Islands University (P.O. Box 22619, Barrigada, Guam 96921)

- To offer Distance Education—effective February 19, 2010

Trinity Life Bible College (5225 Hillsdale Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95842)

- To change the name of Trinity Life Bible College to EPIC Bible College—effective January 13, 2010

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (All were presented to the Commission.)

Quality Compliance Review Reports (QCRR) (A required fifth-year review in the institution’s ten-year cycle of Reaffirmation)

1. Maple Springs Baptist College and Seminary (4130 Belt Road, Capitol Heights, MD 20743)—March 25-26, 2010
2. Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College (P.O. Box 7208 Moore)—April 5-6, 2010

Mentoring Staff Visits (Visits were based on requests from institutions or were scheduled visits by TRACS to review preparation of the institution’s self-study)

1. Agape College (701 Napa Valley Drive, P.O. Box 25431 Little Rock, AR 72221) November 19-20, 2009
2. Shorter College (604 N. Locust Street, North Little Rock, AR 72114) November 19-20, 2010
3. Veritas Evangelical Seminary (39407 Murrieta Hot Springs Road, Murrieta, CA 92563) February 25, 2010
4. Southern California Seminary (2075 East Madison Avenue, El Cajon, CA 92019) February 25, 2010
5. Mid-America Reformed Seminary (229 Seminary Drive, Dyer, IN 46311) March 15-16, 2010

Focus Visits

1. Midwest University (851 Parr Road, Wentzville, MO 63385); February 3-5, 2010
2. Midwest University (Korea Branch Campus); February 7-10, 2010

Institutional Staff Meetings *(Representatives from institutions visit the TRACS Office for help and guidance through the TRACS accreditation process)*

1. Carolina Christian College—January 12, 2010
2. Calvary Leadership Institute—January 15, 2010
3. Barber-Scotia College—March 4, 2010
4. Eastern Theological Seminary—March 18, 2010