

## Public Notice: Show Cause Directive

July 20, 2018

In accordance with its procedure for Notification and Information Sharing (Section X.C, Part II Processes and Procedures, DEAC Accreditation Handbook) and 34 Code of Federal Regulations §602.26(b)(1), the Commission provides written notice to the U.S. Secretary of Education, the appropriate state licensing or authorizing agencies, the appropriate accrediting organizations, and the public at the same time it notifies the institution of the decision, but no later than 30 days after the Commission makes a decision to place an institution on show cause.

At its June 2018 meeting, the Commission voted to direct the following institution to show cause why its accreditation should not be withdrawn and to undergo a review by an on-site evaluation team to evaluate compliance with accreditation standards.

University of Philosophical Research  
3910 Los Feliz Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Listed below are the DEAC Standards of Accreditation pertinent to the Commission's decision. The next review of the institution by the Commission will take place at its June 2019 meeting.

### **Standard II.A. Institutional Effectiveness Planning.**

*The institution demonstrates a commitment to its educational offerings and administrative operations through processes that monitor and improve institutional effectiveness. The institution engages in sound research practices and analysis of data used to improve operations, educational offerings, and services.*

### **Standard II.B. Strategic Planning**

*The institution engages in strategic planning that aligns with and demonstrates a shared commitment to the mission. The institution's planning process involves all areas of the institution's operations (e.g., admissions, academic, technology, etc.) in identifying strategic initiatives and goals by evaluating external and internal trends for continued growth. At a minimum, the strategic plan addresses finances, academics, technology, admissions, marketing, personnel, and sustainability. The strategic plan is reviewed and updated annually using established metrics designed to measure achievement of strategic planning activities.*

### **Standard III.B. Appropriate Program Outcomes**

*The program outcomes are measurable and reasonably attainable through distance education. Appropriate program outcomes clearly communicate the knowledge, skills, and abilities students will obtain upon completion of the educational offering. Program outcomes reflect the expected level of student achievement that promotes critical thinking, ethical reasoning, social responsibility, global citizenship, civic engagement, or lifelong learning, as applicable to educational offerings.*

### **Standard III.D.1. Comprehensive Curricula and Instructional Materials**

*The institution implements an Advisory Council for each major group of programs or major subject matter discipline it offers. The Advisory Council includes members not otherwise employed or contracted at the institution, consisting of practitioners and employers in the field for which the program prepares*

*students. The institution convenes an Advisory Council meeting at least annually to provide the institution with advice on the current level of skills, knowledge, and abilities individuals need for entry into the occupation. As a part of the institution's effectiveness planning activities, the Advisory Council provides the institution with recommendations on the adequacy of educational program outcomes, curricula, and course materials.*

**Standard III.E. Curricula Development**

*Qualified persons competent in distance education instructional practices and experts in their subjects or fields develop the content of curricula and prepare instructional materials.*

**Standard III.H. Examinations and Other Assessment**

*Examinations and other assessment techniques provide adequate evidence of the achievement of stated learning outcomes. The institution implements grading criteria that it uses to evaluate and document student attainment of learning outcomes.*

**Standard V.A Student Achievement**

*The institution evaluates student achievement using indicators it determines are appropriate relative to its mission and educational offerings. The institution evaluates student achievement by collecting data from outcomes assessment activities using direct and indirect measures. The institution maintains systematic and ongoing processes for assessing student learning and achievement, analyzes data, and documents the results meet both internal and external benchmarks, including those comparable to courses or programs offered at peer DEAC-accredited institutions. The institution demonstrates and documents how the evaluation of student achievement drives quality improvement of educational offerings and support services.*

**Standard VI.A. Academic Leadership**

*The institution demonstrates appropriate academic leadership capacity and infrastructure to support the effective distance education delivery of educational offerings. Academic leadership possesses the academic credentials, background, knowledge, ethics, and experience necessary to guide the instructional activities of the institution.*

**Standard VI.C. Instructors, Faculty, and Staff**

*Faculty/instructors are qualified and appropriately credentialed to teach the subject at the assigned level. The institution employs a sufficient number of qualified faculty/instructors to provide individualized instructional service to each student. The institution maintains faculty/instructors' resumes and official transcripts on file. Faculty/instructors are carefully screened for appointment and are properly and continuously trained on institution policies, learner needs, instructional approaches and techniques, and the use of instructional technology. The institution regularly evaluates faculty performance using clear, consistent procedures. The institution assures that faculty are appropriately involved and engaged in the curriculum and instructional aspects of the educational offerings.*

**Standard XI.C. Financial Stability and Sustainability**

*The institution maintains adequate administrative staff and other resources to operate effectively as a going concern and is not exposed to undue or insurmountable risk. Any risk that exists is adequately monitored, manageable, and insured. In the event the financial operations of the institution are supported by a parent company or a third party, audited or reviewed financial statements are provided by the supporting entity to demonstrate that the supporting entity possesses sufficient financial*

*resources to provide the institution continued financial sustainability, as well as the commitment to do so.*

**Standard XI.D. Financial Reporting**

*Financial statements are prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America often referred to as "GAAP," including the accrual method of accounting. An independent certified public accountant (CPA) audit or review report accompanies these statements.*

*1. The institution's financial statements reflect sufficient liquid assets to provide for a staff and faculty.*

*2. Annually, the institution has the option of submitting one of these two types of financial statements, unless the Commission directs the institution to submit audited financial statements.*

- Audited comparative financial statements containing an audit opinion by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, or*

- Reviewed comparative financial statements containing a review report by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.*

*3. Financial statements submitted must include the institution's fiscal statement for either the most recent fiscal year end or the date specified by the Commission, the CPA's opinion letter or review report, and a letter of financial statement validation.*