



RECONSIDERATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Policy Change Adopted on Second Reading

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) adopted this policy on second reading at its meeting on November 5–6, 2020.

Background

The adopted change eliminates the policy titled Commission Right to Reconsider Affiliation (INST.B.30.050), which allowed the Board to initiate a “reconsideration process” to determine whether an institution continues to meet HLC’s Eligibility Requirements or Criteria for Accreditation or is acting in accordance with HLC policies. The reconsideration process was rarely used since the policy was adopted in 1993, and other existing policies and procedures—including the application of sanctions, the issuance of a Show-Cause Order or the withdrawal of an institution’s accreditation or candidacy—allow HLC to effectively respond to institutions in violation of HLC requirements.

Conforming changes that eliminate reference to reconsideration were made in the following policies:

- Institutional Conformity with Commission Requirements (INST.A.10.030)
- Jurisdiction (INST.B.10.010)
- Board of Trustees (INST.D.10.010)
- Show-Cause (INST.E.30.010)
- Denial or Withdrawal of Status (INST.E.60.010)

HLC circulated these policy changes to the membership and other interested parties after the Board’s June 2020 meeting. No comments were received.

Implementation

This policy change is effective immediately.

Adopted Policy

Wording that was deleted or revised is shown as strikethrough (~~old wording~~). These revisions have been made on HLC's website at hlcommission.org/policies.

~~Policy Title: Commission Right to Reconsider Affiliation~~

~~Number: INST.B.30.050~~

~~The Board of Trustees shall reserve the right to reconsider the Status of Affiliation of an institution at any time. Reconsideration will allow the Board to interrupt an institution's scheduled evaluation cycle to make a formal determination whether the institution continues to meet the Eligibility Requirements or Criteria for Accreditation or is acting in accordance with the policies of the Commission. If the Board chooses to exercise its authority under this provision, it will provide to the institution clearly specified reasons related to the Criteria for Accreditation, Eligibility Requirements or Commission policies for its reconsideration and define a process by which the reconsideration shall take place. The institution shall have at least thirty days to respond to the reasons for reconsideration prior to the Board taking action to initiate a reconsideration process. The Board shall take into consideration the institution's response before formally acting to initiate the reconsideration process. The Board will observe Commission policy in conducting the reconsideration process and will complete the reconsideration process no later than the Board meeting subsequent to the next scheduled Board meeting.~~

Policy Number Key

Section INST: Institutional Processes

Chapter B: Requirements for Achieving and Maintaining Affiliation

Part 30: Obligations of Membership and Affiliation

Last Revised: February 2007

First Adopted: February 1993

Revision History: revised February 2007, renumbered June 2010, renumbered February 2011

Notes: Former policy number 2.5(g)

Related Policies