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COMMISSION ON INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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November 14, 2016

Mr. Roger H. Brown  
President  
Berklee College of Music  
1140 Boylston Street, MS-1140 OP  
Boston, MA 02215-3693

Dear President Brown:

I am pleased to inform you that at its meeting on September 23, 2016, the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education considered the report submitted by Berklee College of Music regarding the implementation of its Master of Music in Contemporary Performance (Global Jazz Concentration) and Master of Arts in Music Therapy degree programs, as well as the report of the visiting team, and took the following action:

that the report regarding the College's implementation of its Master of Music in Contemporary Performance (Global Jazz Concentration) and Master of Arts in Music Therapy degree programs be accepted and inclusion of the degrees within the institution's accreditation be confirmed.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its action.

The Commission accepted the report submitted by Berklee College of Music and confirmed the Master of Music in Contemporary Performance (Global Jazz Concentration) and Master of Arts in Music Therapy within the institution's accreditation because the report was responsive to the concerns raised in our letter of January 15, 2013, and provided evidence that the College is implementing the degree programs in a manner consistent with Commission standards and policies.

The Commission commends Berklee College of Music (Berklee) for its comprehensive report documenting the implementation of its 36-credit Master of Music in Contemporary Performance (Global Jazz Concentration) offered to students on campus in Boston over three semesters, and the 30-credit Master of Arts in Music Therapy offered in a low residency/online format over five semesters. We concur with the judgment of the visiting team that the institution's deliberate and thoughtful planning contributes to the seamless integration of the new programs into the College's governance structure. We are also heartened to learn that the new programs have enhanced energy and enthusiasm among the campus community, and the positive feedback the team received from students who praised the quality of



## **COMMISSION ON INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

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### **Public Disclosure of Information About Affiliated Institutions**

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The following policy governs the release of information regarding the status of affiliated colleges and universities by institutions and by the Commission.

#### **1. Release of Information by Institutions Regarding Their Accreditation Following Commission Action**

At the conclusion of the evaluation process institutions are encouraged to make publicly available information about their accreditation status including the findings of team reports and any obligations or requirements established by Commission action, as well as any plans to address stated concerns. Because of the potential to be misleading, institutions are asked not to publish or otherwise disseminate excerpts from these materials.

While the Commission does not release copies of self-studies, progress reports, evaluation reports, or other documents related to the accreditation of individual institutions, it believes it to be good practice for institutions to make these materials available, in their entirety, after notification of Commission action.

While the Commission does not initiate public release of information on actions of show cause or deferral, if such information is released by the institution in question or is otherwise made public, the Commission will respond to related inquiries and may issue a public statement.

If an institution releases or otherwise disseminates information which misrepresents or distorts its accreditation status, the institution will be notified and asked to take corrective action publicly correcting any misleading information it may have disseminated, including but not limited to the accreditation status of the institution, the contents of evaluation reports, and the Commission actions with respect to the institution. Should it fail to do so, the Commission, acting through its President, will release a public statement in such form and content as it deems desirable providing correct information. This may include release of notification letters sent by the Commission to the institution, and/or a press release.

\_\_\_\_\_ College (University) is accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc.

Inquiries regarding the accreditation status by the Commission should be directed to the administrative staff of the institution. Individuals may also contact:

**Commission on Institutions of Higher Education  
New England Association of Schools and Colleges  
3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100, Burlington, MA 01803-4514  
(781) 425 7785  
E-Mail: [cihe@neasc.org](mailto:cihe@neasc.org)**

Accreditation by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education has reference to the institution as a whole. Therefore, statements like “fully accredited” or “this program is accredited by the Commission” or “this degree is accredited by the Commission” are incorrect and should not be used.

### **3. Published Statement on Candidate Status**

An institution granted Candidate for Accreditation status must use the following statement whenever it makes reference to its affiliation with the New England Association:

\_\_\_\_\_ College (University) has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. Candidacy for Accreditation is a status of affiliation with the Commission which indicates that the institution has achieved initial recognition and is progressing toward accreditation.

Candidacy is not accreditation nor does it assure eventual accreditation.

Inquiries regarding the status of an institution affiliated with the Commission should be directed to the administrative staff of the college or university. Individuals may also contact:

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### **4. Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions by the Commission**

The Commission publishes the following information about member and candidate institutions on its website:

- For institutions whose candidacy or accreditation has been withdrawn, the date of, and reasons for, withdrawal.

The Commission recognizes that, to be fully understood, information about the accredited status of institutions must be placed within the context of the policies and procedures of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education. In responding to inquiries, the Commission will endeavor to do so.

The Commission does not generally provide information about deferments of action on candidate or accreditation status, or show-cause orders. However, if such information is released by the institution in question, the Commission will respond to related inquiries and may issue its own statement.

Adverse actions (placement of an institution on probation, denial of candidate status or accreditation, and withdrawal of candidacy or accreditation) are communicated when the decision becomes final (i.e., when the institution does not appeal or when the appeals process is completed and the decision is upheld). The Commission, at its discretion, may make the adverse action public before the decision is final or the appeal is completed. In so doing, the Commission will provide information about the appeal process.

## **5. Public Disclosure of Institutional Actions**

Within 30 days after the action on accreditation status is taken, the Commission will notify the Secretary of Education, New England state higher education officers, appropriate accrediting agencies, and the public. Such actions include:

A final decision to:

Grant candidacy or accreditation

Continue an institution in accreditation

Deny or withdraw the candidacy or accreditation of an institution

Place an institution on probation

Approve substantive change (e.g., moving to a higher degree level)

A decision by an accredited or candidate institution to voluntarily withdraw from affiliation with the Commission.

*November 1998*

*September 2001*

*April 2010*

*September 2011*

*Editorial Changes, March 2014*

*April 2015*