

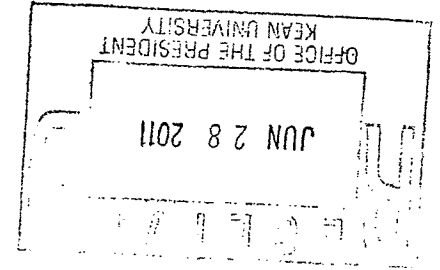


Middle States Commission on Higher Education

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www.msche.org

June 24, 2011

Dr. Dawood Farahi
President
Kean University
1000 Morris Avenue
Box 411
Union, NJ 07083-7131



Dear Dr. Farahi:

At its session on June 23, 2011, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted:

To warn the institution that its accreditation may be in jeopardy because of insufficient evidence that the institution is currently in compliance with Standard 7 (Institutional Assessment) and Standard 14 (Assessment of Student Learning). To note that the institution remains accredited while on warning. To request a monitoring report, due March 1, 2012, documenting that the institution has achieved and can sustain compliance with Standards 7 and 14, including but not limited to the development and implementation of (1) steps taken to promote an institution-wide culture of assessment and evidence; (2) an organized and sustainable assessment process, including direct measures, to evaluate and improve institutional effectiveness with evidence that assessment information is used to gain efficiencies in programs, services, and processes; and (3) an organized and sustainable process to assess the achievement of student learning goals at the course and program levels, with evidence that assessment information is used to improve teaching and learning (Standards 7 and 14). To direct a prompt liaison guidance visit to discuss the Commission's expectations. A small team visit will follow submission of the monitoring report. The due date for the next Periodic Review Report will be established when accreditation is reaffirmed.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Statement of Accreditation Status for your institution. The Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS) provides important basic information about the institution and its affiliation with the Commission, and it is made available to the public in the Directory of Members and Candidates on the Commission's website at www.msche.org. Accreditation applies to the institution as detailed in the SAS; institutional information is derived from data provided by the institution through annual reporting and from Commission actions. If any of the institutional information is incorrect, please contact the Commission as soon as possible.

A Public Disclosure Statement will also be developed, consistent with the Commission's policy on *Public Communication in the Accrediting Process*. The statement provides an explanation of the nature of the institutional accreditation action that has been taken by the Commission. The Public Disclosure Statement will accompany the institution's Statement of Accreditation Status and will be made available on the Middle States Commission on Higher Education web

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site. It will also be provided on request to inquiring individuals. It is expected that the Public Disclosure Statement will be complete and posted within 30 days. A draft of the statement will be provided for institutional factual review prior to finalization.

Please check to ensure that published references to your institution's accredited status (catalog, other publications, web page) include the full name, address, and telephone number of the accrediting agency. Further guidance is provided in the Commission's policy statement *Advertising, Student Recruitment, and Representation of Accredited Status*. If the action for your institution includes preparation of a progress report, monitoring report or supplemental report, please see our policy statement on *Follow-up Reports and Visits*. Both policies can be obtained from our website.

Please be assured of the continuing interest of the Commission on Higher Education in the well-being of Kean University. If any further clarification is needed regarding the SAS or other items in this letter, please feel free to contact Dr. Debra G. Klinman, Vice President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael F. Middaugh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Michael F. Middaugh, Ed.D.
Chair

Public Disclosure Statement

Kean University

June 23, 2011

By the Middle States Commission on Higher Education

This statement has been developed for use in responding to public inquiries, consistent with the Commission's policies on [Public Communication in the Accrediting Process](#), [Range of Commission Actions on Accreditation](#), and [Standardized Language for Commission Actions on Accreditation](#). It should be read in conjunction with the *Statement of Accreditation Status* for Kean University, a copy of which is attached. The policies listed above explain what information the Commission makes public regarding its member institutions and what information remains confidential, describe the various accreditation actions the Commission can take, and define the terms used in the Commission's actions.

Kean University, located in Union, New Jersey is a public institution. It has been accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education since 1960. Kean University offers programs leading to Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctor's-Research/Scholarship degrees as well as Post-Master's certificates. A full listing of the institution's additional locations is noted in the *Statement of Accreditation Status*. A summary of the most recent Commission actions relative to the institution's accreditation follows.

Current Accreditation Status

On June 23, 2011, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted as to warn the institution that its accreditation may be in jeopardy because of insufficient evidence that the institution is currently in compliance with Standards 7 (Institutional Assessment) and 14 (Assessment of Student Learning). To note that the institution remains accredited while on Warning. To request a monitoring report, due March 1, 2012, documenting that the institution has achieved and can sustain compliance with Standards 7 and 14, including but not limited to, the development and implementation of (1) steps taken to promote an institution-wide culture of assessment and evidence; (2) an organized and sustainable assessment process, including direct measures, to evaluate and improve institutional effectiveness with evidence that assessment information is used to gain efficiencies in programs, services, and processes; and (3) an organized and sustainable process to assess the achievement of student learning goals at the course and program levels, with evidence that assessment information is used to improve teaching and learning (Standards 7 and 14). To direct a prompt liaison guidance visit to discuss the Commission's expectations. A small team visit will follow submission of the monitoring report. The due date for the next Periodic Review Report will be established when accreditation is reaffirmed.

Kean University remains accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education while on Warning.

The Commission places an institution on Warning when, in the Commission's judgment, the institution is not in compliance with one or more Commission accreditation standards. When the Commission warns an institution, it believes that, although the institution is out of compliance, the institution has the capacity both to make appropriate improvements within a reasonable period and to sustain itself in the long term. A follow-up report, called a monitoring report, is required to demonstrate that the institution has made appropriate improvements to bring itself into compliance. A small team visit also is conducted to verify institutional status and progress.

Summary of Recent Commission Actions

At least every ten years, all accredited institutions engage in an 18-24 month period of self-study intended to demonstrate institutional compliance with accreditation standards and to promote institutional improvement. Kean University completed its self-study process and hosted an evaluation team visit during 2010-11. Following the on-site visit, the evaluation team submitted its report to Kean University and the institution prepared its institutional response. The institutional response is an opportunity for the institution to provide a thoughtful written response to the team report including disagreements with and/or interpretations of evaluation team findings. These prepared materials were considered by the Committee on Evaluation Reports and by the Commission at their June 2011 meetings.

Current Status and Expected Activities

Kean University remains accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education while on Warning.

Following submission of a monitoring report on March 1, 2012, the Commission will conduct a small team visit to assess the institution's compliance with the Commission's standards. Following the on-site visit, a report by the visiting team will be completed. The monitoring report, the small team report and the institutional response to the small team report will be considered by the Committee on Follow-Up Activities, and then by the Commission at its June 2012 meeting.

At its June 2012 session, the Commission will take further action, in accordance with the Commission's policy, *Range of Commission Actions on Accreditation* (available at <http://www.msche.org/documents/P2.3-RangeofActions.doc>). If the Commission determines that progress sufficient to demonstrate compliance with its accreditation standards has not been made, the Commission may take further action as allowed under the *Range of Commission Actions on Accreditation*.

For More Information

The following resources provide additional information that may be helpful in understanding the Commission's actions and Kean University's accreditation status:

Statement of Accreditation Status for Kean University

(http://www.msche.org/institutions_directory.asp) provides factual information about Kean University and the full text of the Commission's recent actions regarding the institution.

Media Backgrounder (<http://www.msche.org/documents/Media%20Backgrounder%202012.doc>) answers questions about accreditation such as "What is accreditation?" and "What is the Middle States Commission on Higher Education?"

Informing the Public about Accreditation (www.chea.org/public_info/index.asp), published by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, provides additional information on the nature and value of accreditation.