



DAVID QUIGLEY, Chair (2020)
Boston College

GEORGE W. TESTER, Vice Chair (2022)
Worcester State University

KASSANDRA S. ARDINGER (2020)
Trustee Member, Concord, NH

RUSSELL C. REY (2020)
Brown University

FRAANCESCO C. CESAREO (2020)
Assumption College

F. JAVIER CRUZ (2020)
Ferris State University

RICK DANIELSON (2020)
Cohasset Community College

DONALD D. DEHAY, Esq. (2020)
University of Rhode Island

DEAN T. EDINGER (2020)
Berkshire Community College

THOMAS S. EDWARDS (2020)
Thomas College

KIMBERLY M. COFF CREWS (2020)
Yale University

MARTIN J. HOWARD (2020)
Boston University

SUSAN D. HUARD (2020)
University System of NH

JEFFREY T. SOLOMON (2020)
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

ELEAS W. BAKER (2021)
Falmouth University

PETER L. EBB (2021)
Trustee Member, Boston, MA

GREGORY W. OWLER (2021)
Southern New Hampshire University

DENNIS M. HUNTS (2021)
Wheaton College

ELIZABETH A. SPER (2021)
Berkshire Community College

ABDULLAH A. SPEER (2021)
Lebanon Valley American University

JOHN M. SWEENEY (2021)
University of Connecticut

ELAINE COLLINS (2022)
Northern Vermont University

COO DR. L. FILIPPO (2022)
Naugatuck Valley Community College

HARVEY J. DUMAY (2022)
College of Our Lady of the Elms

P. M. SHELTON (2022)
New England College

DANIEL L. MAY (2022)
University of New Haven

JEFFERY J. MCMAHAN (2022)
Burlington, VT

PAUL J. NEWELL (2022)
Fairleigh Dickinson University

President of the Commission
BARBARA E. BRITTINGHAM
bbrittingham@neche.org

Senior Vice President
PATRICIA M. O'BRIEN, SND
pobrien@neche.org

Vice President of the Commission
CAROL A. ...

Vice President of the Commission
LAURA M. GAMBINO

Vice President of the Commission
PAUL A. MANIGONE
pharbecke@neche.org

Vice President of the Commission
AARON PERKUS
aperkus@neche.org

March 20, 2020

Dr. Ellen L. Kennedy
President
Berkshire Community College
1350 West Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201-5786

Dear President Kennedy:

I am pleased to inform you that at its meeting on March 6, 2020, the New England Commission of Higher Education took the following action with respect to Berkshire Community College:

that Berkshire Community College be continued in accreditation;

that the College submit a report for consideration in Spring 2022 that gives provides an update on the institution's success in:

1. establishing learning outcomes for all courses with emphasis on ensuring consistency of outcomes across multiple sections of the same course;
2. reorganizing its committee structure with emphasis on defining roles, responsibilities, and goals;

that the College submit an interim (fifth-year) report for consideration in Fall 2024;

that, in addition to the information included in all interim reports, the College give emphasis to its success in:

1. developing and implementing its 2021-2026 Strategic Plan;
2. analyzing data and using the results to inform decision-making with emphasis on academic programming, enrollment, and student services;
3. reorganizing its committee structure with attention to the evaluation of the effectiveness and efficacy of the College senate and relevant committees;
4. developing and implementing processes and procedures to support and grow professional development;

Dr. Ellen L. Kennedy
March 20, 2020
Page 2

The institution uses a variety of quantitative and qualitative methods and direct and indirect measures to understand the experiences and learning outcomes of its students, employing external perspectives including, as appropriate, benchmarks and peer comparisons (8.5).

The institution defines measures of student success and levels of achievement appropriate to its mission, modalities and locations of instruction, and student body, including any specifically recruited populations. These measures include rates of progression, retention, transfer, and graduation; default and loan repayment rates; licensure passage rates; and employment (8.6).

The team also learned during its visit that, due to changes (e.g., retirements, turnover, new hires, and reorganization efforts) over the last few years, the College is “rethinking” its committee bylaws and structure. For example, the College Senate was recently re-established; however, committee goals are not yet well-defined, and the roles and responsibilities of various committees (e.g., Academic Affairs Committee; Education Affairs Committee) are not clearly specified. We look forward, in Spring 2022, to learning of the College’s success in reorganizing its committee structure for relevant College committees as evidence that, “[t]hrough its system of ... internal governance, the institution ensures the appropriate consideration of relevant perspectives; decision-making aligned with expertise and responsibility; and timely action on institutional plans, policies, curricular change, and other key considerations” (3.17).

Commission policy requires an interim (fifth-year) report of all institutions on a decennial

The institution demonstrates its ability to admit students who can be successful in the institution's academic program, including specifically recruited populations. The institution's goals for retention and graduation reflect institutional purposes, and the results are used to inform recruitment and the review of programs and services (5.6).

Through a program of regular and systematic evaluation, the institution assesses the appropriateness and effectiveness of its student services to advance institutional purposes. Information obtained through this evaluation is used to revise these goals and services and improve their achievement (5.20).

The results of assessment and quantitative measures of student success are a demonstrable factor in the institution's efforts to improve the learning opportunities and results for students (8.8).

As also mentioned above, we recognize that the College is in the process of reorganizing its governance structure and we understand that addressing these matters take time. Hence, we ask that the College include, in its Fall 2024 interim report, an update on its success in reorganizing its governance structure with emphasis on evaluating the effectiveness and efficacy of the College senate and relevant committees to demonstrate that "[t]he effectiveness of the institution's organizational structure and system of governance is improved through periodic and systematic review" (3.19).

Finally, we appreciate the focused attention BCC is devoting to strengthening its faculty development activities. We also recognize that these matters do not lend themselves to rapid resolution; hence, the Fall 2024 interim report will allow the College an opportunity to update the Commission on its success in developing and implementing processes and procedures to support and grow professional development. We are informed here by our standard on *Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship*:

The institution endeavors to enhance the quality of the learning experience

Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship

Dr. Ellen L. Kennedy
March 20, 2020
Page 5

about the evaluation and the Commission's action to others, in accordance with the enclosed policy on Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions.

The Commission hopes that the evaluation process has contributed to institutional improvement. It appreciates your cooperation with the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education in New England.

If you have any questions about the Commission's action, please contact Barbara Brittingham, President of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Quigley", is written over a horizontal blue and purple gradient bar.

David Quigley

DQ/jm

cc: Ms. Darlene Rodowicz
Dr. Carlos Santiago
Visiting Team

Enclosure