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August 23, 2011

Dr. Robert N. Shelton  
President  
University of Arizona  
P.O. Box 210066  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0066

RECEIVED

AUG 29 2011

PROVOST  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDENT

AUG 24 2011

UNIVERSITY OF  
ARIZONA

Dear President Shelton:

The monitoring report you submitted to our office has now been reviewed. A staff analysis of the report is enclosed.

On behalf of the Commission, I accept the report on a plan for meeting the Minimum Expectations on assessment. A monitoring report demonstrating how the deficiency in the Minimum Expectations on assessment has been rectified is due 5/16/13. The institution's next comprehensive evaluation is scheduled for 2020 - 2021.

I am also enclosing a copy of the institution's Statement of Affiliation Status, which reflects the actions I have taken on behalf of the Commission. If you have any questions about this analysis or any other evaluation matters, please let me know. I can be reached via email at [mbreslin@hlcommission.org](mailto:mbreslin@hlcommission.org) or by voice at (800) 621-7440 x 107.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary B. Breslin".

Mary B. Breslin B.V.M.,  
Vice President for Accreditation Relations

Enclosures

STAFF ANALYSIS OF INSTITUTIONAL REPORT

DATE: August 22, 2011

STAFF: Mary B. Breslin B.V.M.

REVIEWED BY: Katherine C. Delaney

INSTITUTION: University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Robert N. Shelton, President

PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTION RE: REPORT: A progress report due on 8/16/11 focused on plan for meeting the Minimum Expectations on assessment.

ITEMS ADDRESSED IN REPORT: The office of the Commission received University of Arizona's report on the above topic on 8/16/11.

STAFF ANALYSIS: The University of Arizona hosted a comprehensive visit in December 2010. The visiting team indicated a concern about the University's assessment program and commented in the report of the visit:

*The University of Arizona was visited in 2000 by a team that found that insufficient progress appeared to have been made in Assessment of Student Learning, consistent with the requirements of Criterion Three. A progress report was requested in five-years time to encourage the development of a more nearly complete program of assessment for the campus. The report was submitted in 2005 and provided information on how the institution would move forward to create such a program. However, while the visiting team finds many positive developments and especially plans as identified above in this section of the report, the central issue of a completed cycle of assessment of student learning remains. The cycle must start with the identification of program learning goals. The UA has faced great challenges in recent years and addressed them with impressive results. It is not perhaps surprising that something that must be in mind throughout the institution is not yet in evidence for the team to evaluate. It is clear that faculty and staff care about what their students learn. Nevertheless it is required that assessment be done consistent with HLC policy, including minimum standards, on a regular basis, and formally with written records, to provide results to confirm learning and to provide a basis for continued improvement.*

*... The report should contain the following elements: an identification of the institutional structure with responsibility and authority for assuring that assessment occurs throughout academic programs and that it includes effective direct and indirect measures; documentation of identification of learning outcomes across degree programs, documentation of measures used to assess learning across degree programs, documentation across degree programs of results from assessment and analysis and use of results, and an evaluation of the extent to which the program of assessment of student learning in degree programs is effective across the institution.*

The Institutional Actions Committee, in its review of the visit, made some revisions to the team's recommendation for a progress report. In the action letter dated 5/20/11, the President of the Commission advised the institution of those revisions, including changing the team-recommended progress report to a monitoring report:

*The IAC determined that the University is not meeting the current Minimum Expectations on Assessment, which call for "Programs, majors, degrees and general education have stated learning outcomes." Therefore, the Council is requiring a monitoring report on developing an assessment plan, due three months after this action, and a monitoring report due in two years which articulates how the Minimum Expectation has been addressed. This two-part monitoring report is in keeping with current Commission policy on Minimum Expectations. The two monitoring reports replace the progress report due 12/30/2015.*

The first part of the monitoring report was submitted by the University of Arizona and consisted primarily of the assessment plan for the University, as was expected, given the purpose of this first report articulated by the IAC.

The assessment plan included:

- Clarification of the responsibilities for institutional oversight of assessment and the role of the Office of Instruction and Assessment,
- A Progress Assessment Plan, including timelines and related activities expected of programs,
- A chart delineating the sources and process for institutional assessment,
- An assessment rubric indicating the criteria expected of program assessment plans and the percentage of program that had achieved those criteria and at what level of excellence,
- And a rubric for "Assessing APR Assessment Plans."

Staff comment: It appears that the University is well-positioned to implement its assessment program fully in fall 2011 and that it will be in a good position, as well, to document the full implementation of the assessment program in order to achieve the minimum expectation on assessment in time for the next part of the monitoring report, due 5/16/2013.

**STAFF ACTION:** Accept the report on plan for meeting the Minimum Expectations on assessment. A monitoring report demonstrating how the deficiency in the Minimum Expectations on assessment has been rectified is due 5/16/13 .The institution's next comprehensive evaluation is scheduled for 2020 - 2021.

## STATEMENT OF AFFILIATION STATUS

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
P.O. Box 210066  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0066

*Affiliation Status:* Candidate: Not Applicable  
Accreditation: (1917- .)

PEAQ PARTICIPANT

### Nature of Organization

*Legal Status:* Public  
*Degrees Awarded:* B, M, S, D

### Conditions of Affiliation:

*Stipulations on Affiliation Status:* International offerings are limited to courses in Latin America and Europe.

*Approval of New Additional Locations:* Prior Commission approval required.

*Approval of Distance and Correspondence Courses and Programs:* New Commission policy on institutional change became effective July 1, 2010. Some aspects of the change processes affecting distance delivered courses and programs are still being finalized. This entry will be updated in early 2011 to reflect current policy. In the meantime, see the Commission's Web site for information on seeking approval of distance education courses and programs.

*Reports Required:* Monitoring Report: 05/16/2013; A report demonstrating how the deficiency in the Minimum Expectations on assessment has been rectified.

*Other Visits Scheduled:* Focused Visit-Mandated: 2011 - 2012; A visit focused on the evaluation of the new branch campus in Phoenix, Arizona, within six months of the campus opening.

### Summary of Commission Review

*Year of Last Comprehensive Evaluation:* 2010 - 2011  
*Year for Next Comprehensive Evaluation:* 2020 - 2021  
*Date of Last Action:* 06/20/2011