



Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
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ORDER SUSPENDING APPROVAL TO OPERATE DEGREE GRANTING PROGRAMS

To: Tony B.E. Ogamien, Owner
American Heritage University of Southern California
9227 Haven Ave. Suite 275
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

INSTITUTION CODE: 81701248

ORDER NUMBER: 1006756

ORDER MAILING DATE: June 21, 2021

ORDER EFFECTIVE DATE: June 26, 2021

DUE DATE TO REQUEST INFORMAL OFFICE CONFERENCE: July 26, 2021

Beth Scott, as the designee of the Bureau Chief of the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau), hereby issues an Order Suspending Approval to Operate Degree Granting Programs (Order) of the above institution.

This Order is hereby issued to Tony B.E. Ogamien, Owner of American Heritage University of Southern California (Institution) located at 9227 Haven Ave. Suite 275, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730, pursuant to California Education Code (CEC) section 94885.1(b)(2) and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (5 CCR) section 71410 for the violations described below.

Factual Basis

Bureau records indicate that you obtained an approval to operate from the Bureau on or before January 1, 2015, and that you are operating an approved, unaccredited institution that offers one or more degree programs. Pursuant to CEC section 94885.1(b)(2), your institution was required to submit evidence of having achieved accreditation candidacy or pre-accreditation¹ by July 1, 2017 and full accreditation by July 1, 2020.

On June 26, 2015, the Bureau received an accreditation plan from the Institution to achieve accreditation through Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) accrediting agency.

On July 28, 2016, the Bureau mailed to the Institution a letter requesting an update on accreditation progress.

On August 6, 2016, the Bureau received documentation from the Institution that the Phase 1B uploads were provided to ACICS on July 5, 2016. This step indicates that pre-accreditation or candidacy was achieved with ACICS.

¹ As defined by 5 CCR section 70000(s), for this purpose, “pre-accreditation” or “candidacy” means that an institution has submitted a completed application for initial accreditation with the required fee, which was accepted by the accreditor.

On March 14, 2017, the Bureau mailed to the Institution a letter requesting that the Institution select a new accrediting agency and accreditation plan as the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education denied the re-recognition of ACICS.

Between June 29, 2017 and June 30, 2017, the Bureau received an accreditation plan, benchmark table and a copy of a certificate of completion for an online tutorial for Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) from the Institution.

On October 5, 2018, the Bureau mailed to the Institution a second letter requesting an update on accreditation progress.

On November 5, 2018, the Bureau received a letter from the Institution and a copy of the initial application for accreditation that the Institution submitted to DEAC on October 19, 2018.

On January 18, 2019, the Bureau mailed to the Institution a third letter requesting an update on accreditation progress.

On January 22, 2019, the Bureau received from the Institution a benchmark table, and a copy of a letter from DEAC stating that the initial application for accreditation was accepted on December 14, 2018 and that the Self-Evaluation Report (SER) was due to DEAC by February 12, 2019. This step indicates that pre-accreditation or candidacy was achieved with DEAC.

On January 24, 2020, the Bureau mailed to the Institution a letter requesting an update on the accreditation progress, outlining the procedure to follow if accreditation is no longer pursued, and informing the Institution of the opportunity to request an extension by June 1, 2020 in order to meet the accreditation requirements.

On May 6, 2020, the Bureau received an email from DEAC stating that they were awaiting a response from the Institution indicating intent to continue to the third readiness assessment, due October 20, 2020.

On June 1, 2020, the Bureau received an extension request from the Institution to achieve accreditation with DEAC.

On June 18, 2020, the Bureau informed the Institution that a 10-month extension to achieve accreditation with DEAC on or before May 1, 2021 was granted.

On April 6, 2021, the Bureau mailed to the Institution a letter with information regarding the option of requesting an extension to achieve accreditation with DEAC if accreditation was not achieved by May 1, 2021.

On April 14, 2021, the Bureau received an email from DEAC stating that the Institution withdrew their application for accreditation on October 29, 2020. The Bureau contacted the Institution by telephone and the Institution confirmed that they changed accreditors to Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) and sent a confirmation email to the Institution. In addition, the Bureau received an email from TRACS stating that TRACS conducted an Application Orientation meeting on January 27, 2021 at the Institution's campus.

On April 30, 2021, the Bureau received an extension request from the Institution with information that they withdrew their accreditation application with DEAC and that they selected the accrediting agency TRACS to achieve accreditation.

On May 4, 2021, the Bureau received an email from TRACS stating that as of May 4, 2021, an application for initial accreditation had not been submitted by the Institution.

On May 6, 2021, the Bureau received from the Institution a copy of an amended accreditation plan and an updated benchmark table to be included in the extension request received by the Bureau on April 30, 2021.

On May 18, 2021, the Bureau notified the Institution that their request for extension was denied, as the request did not provide the following: an amended accreditation plan adequately identifying why accreditation outlined in the original plan was not achieved, evidence to demonstrate that the institution had made strong progress toward achieving accreditation and documentation from an accrediting agency demonstrating that the Institution's likely ability to meet the requirements of CEC section 94885.1.

The Institution, therefore, did not achieve accreditation by May 1, 2021, following the 10-month grant of extension.

ORDER

In accordance with the provisions of CEC section 94885.1(b)(2) and 5 CCR sections 71410 and 74250, the Bureau hereby orders the following:

The approval to operate, issued to American Heritage University of Southern California, is automatically suspended as to all of the institution's degree programs. The Bureau will not lift the suspension until the Institution complies with the requirements of CEC section 94885.1(b)(2) by submitting evidence to the Bureau of having achieved accreditation.

1. You must immediately **cease enrolling new students** in all of your degree programs.
2. Within 30 days of the effective date of this Order, you must submit a **degree program closure plan** to the Bureau with all of the following:
 - a. The date the institution stopped enrolling new students in the degree program(s).
 - b. A list of contact information for all students currently enrolled in each degree program.
 - c. A **teach-out plan** with information on the arrangements you have made for students to complete their educational programs at another institution. **The institution shall not teach-out its own students.** The teach-out plan must: (1) provide the name and location of the institution(s) providing the teach-out; (2) include a plan for the disposition of student records per CEC section 94927.5; (3) be compliant with the refund provisions of CEC section 94927; and (4) include a copy of the notification to be provided to students identified in item # 4 below.

3. The institution must notify, in writing, all currently enrolled students within five (5) business days of the effective date of this Order of the following:
 - a. That the institution has received a notice of suspension from the Bureau and may no longer offer degree programs.
 - b. The teach-out plan, which shall provide, at minimum, the following information: (1) the name and location of the institution(s) that is providing the teach-out, (2) the date upon which instruction at the teach-out institution(s) will begin, (3) how and when payments will be made to the new institution and any relevant financial information, and (4) a contact person at the new institution(s).
 - c. That the student has a right to choose not to participate in the teach-out, and instead seek a refund for any classes the student is currently enrolled in or has not yet completed.
4. Any student may seek a refund from the institution rather than participate in a proposed teach-out program. The school must provide refunds within 45 days of the request by a student.
5. Failure of any institution to comply with the requirements of this section will be considered a violation and subject to action by the Bureau.

APPEAL OF ORDER

You may request an appeal of this Order before the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs, or his or her designee. (5 CCR section 71410.)

Because this suspension is automatic per CEC section 94885.1(e), the institution shall not operate its degree programs during any appeal.

If you wish to appeal this Order, you must do so within 30 days from the effective date of the Order. *Unless you sign a written request for an appeal and deliver it to the Bureau within 30 days from the effective date of the Order, you will be deemed to have waived your right to appeal this matter to the Department of Consumer Affairs.*

Upon timely receipt of your request for an appeal, an informal office conference will be arranged within 30 days, or as extended at your request or by the Bureau for good cause. Upon request and approval, the person approved to operate the institution or representative may participate in the office conference by telephone.

Please submit your request to:

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
Attn: Cheryl Lardizabal, Discipline Analyst
1747 N. Market Blvd., Ste. 225
Sacramento, CA 95834

Failure by an institution to comply with the Order above may result in further enforcement action.
The Bureau will promptly take all appropriate action to enforce this Order.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding this Order or can verify that you submitted evidence to the Bureau of accreditation candidacy or pre-accreditation, please contact Cheryl Lardizabal, Discipline Analyst, at (916) 574-8968 or Cheryl.Lardizabal@dca.ca.gov.

“Original signature on file”

“6/21/2021”

Beth Scott
Enforcement Chief

Date

Enclosures

- Declaration of Service by Certified and First-Class Mail