



Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
1747 N. Market Blvd. Ste 225 Sacramento, CA 95834
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ORDER SUSPENDING APPROVAL TO OPERATE DEGREE GRANTING PROGRAMS

To: Vine Branches Transformation Company, Owner
Frederick W Taylor University
2050 W. Chapman Avenue Suite 108 & 104
Orange, CA 92868

INSTITUTION CODE: 0702241

ORDER NUMBER: 1006209

ORDER MAILING DATE: July 31, 2020

ORDER EFFECTIVE DATE: August 5, 2020

DUE DATE TO REQUEST INFORMAL OFFICE CONFERENCE: September 4, 2020

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 Vine Branches Transformation Company, Owner of Frederick W Taylor University, located at 2050 W. Chapman Avenue Suite 108 & 104, Orange, CA 92868, 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.

On June 24, 2015 the Bureau received an initial accreditation plan and timeline from the Institution for the accrediting agency Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC). On August 10, 2016 the Bureau received a letter from the Institution stating they completed the first step to accreditation.

On May 4, 2017, the Bureau mailed a letter to the Institution to follow up on their accreditation progress. The letter informed the Institution of the opportunity to request an extension to achieve pre-accreditation or candidacy, due by June 30, 2017. On May 25, 2017 the Institution notified the Bureau that they were changing accrediting agencies to Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS).

On June 23, 2017, the Bureau received the Institution's request for extension and provided supporting documentation. On July 5, 2017, the Bureau's Extension Review Committee determined

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.

that the Institution did not provide adequate documentation to demonstrate “strong” progress was being made toward the achievement of pre-accreditation or candidacy by the July 1, 2017 deadline.

On August 16, 2017, the Bureau received an email from the Institution asking the Bureau to allow them to continue with the accreditation progress. On September 6, 2017, the Bureau was notified by TRACS that the Institution did not apply for candidate status with TRACS.

On September 14, 2017, the Bureau mailed the Order Suspending Approval to Operate Degree Granting programs to the Institution and on October 18, 2017, the Institution submitted their request for an appeal.

On January 3, 2018, the Bureau was notified by TRACS that the Institution’s application was accepted.

On January 8, 2018 the Bureau mailed the Institution a letter indicating that the degree program suspension had been lifted, as pre-accreditation had been met. On January 24, 2018, the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs issued an Order Dismissal Appeal, as the degree program suspension had been lifted.

On January 30, 2019, the Bureau mailed to the Institution a follow up letter regarding accreditation progress. On February 22, 2019, the Bureau received the Institution’s response including an Accreditation Benchmark Table.

On January 22, 2020, the Bureau mailed to the Institution an accredited deadline letter. On March 25, 2020, the Bureau received the Accreditation Benchmark Table from the Institution that showed no additional progress had been made since March 2018. On May 29, 2020, the Bureau received a request for an extension of time to achieve accreditation. On June 10, 2020, the Bureau’s Extension Review Committee determined that the Institution did not provide adequate documentation to demonstrate “strong” progress was being made toward the achievement of accreditation.

On June 29, 2020 the Bureau notified the Institution that their request for extension was denied.

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 Frederick W Taylor University, 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 candidacy or pre-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”

“7/31/2020”

Beth Scott
Enforcement Chief

Date

Enclosures

- Declaration of Service by Certified and First-Class Mail