



International Accreditation Council for Business Education

May 5, 2017

Dr. Patricia Thomas
Chair and Associate Professor
Department of Business
Framingham State University
100 State Street PO Box 9101
Framingham, MA 01701-9101

Dear Dr. Thomas:

The IACBE Board of Commissioners met on April 22-23, 2017 to consider your request for the accreditation of the business programs offered by the Department of Business at Framingham State University. I am pleased to report that the Board of Commissioners approved your request and granted accreditation to your business programs accompanied by the note, observations, and commendations identified below.

Notes

Notes represent areas in which the Department of Business is not in full compliance with the IACBE's Accreditation Principles. The department is required to take action on the notes as specified by the IACBE Board of Commissioners, and until the issues identified in the notes have been satisfactorily addressed, the progress made in complying with the commissioners' requirements as stipulated in the notes must be reported each year to the IACBE. Unless otherwise indicated herein, the department has three years to address the issues identified in the notes. The annual reporting form for note compliance can be found on our website at: www.iacbe.org/reports-note-compliance.asp.

Principle 4.4: Faculty Evaluation

Please provide evidence that faculty evaluation instruments are being used to the IACBE by July 1, 2017.

Observations

Observations are suggestions for further quality enhancements that the Board of Commissioners believes would be helpful to the Department of Business in achieving excellence in business education, but are not required for compliance with the IACBE's Accreditation Principles. Action on observations is optional, and reporting is not required.

Principle 1.1: Outcomes Assessment

1. The Board of Commissioners recommends that the Department of Business review and revise its broad-based student learning goals and the broad-based operational goals to better align with the department's mission and to clarify its intentions.
2. The Board of Commissioners recommends that the Department of Business consider including 'Key Learning Outcome' #5 (Apply decision-support tools to business decision making) in its intended student learning outcomes.
3. The Board of Commissioners recommends that the Department of Business review the results of its current outcomes assessment plan to identify additional changes and improvements, develop action plans, and as appropriate, tie the plans to the institutional budgeting and planning process as a way to enhance continuous improvement.
4. The Department of Business, housed in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, oversees the business programs in the university's traditional day program. However, the department does not oversee the delivery of the course curricula in undergraduate continuing studies classes, and the continuing studies program is housed in the separate division of Continuing Education. Students in the traditional day program are free to take business courses in the continuing studies program as they pursue their degrees. The site-visit team's concern is that these students may not be subject to the assessment processes that are in place for the traditional day program. The site-visit team recommends that the assessment processes be implemented in the continuing studies program.

Principle 2.1: Strategic Planning

The Board of Commissioners recommends that the Department of Business continue to review the results of its outcomes assessment process and to work with the university toward integrating the results of the outcomes assessment process with the university planning and budgeting processes.

Principle 4.2: Faculty Load

1. The Board of Commissioners recommends that the school consider revising and simplifying the procedures used by the registrar to determine course load.
2. The Board of Commissioners recommends that the Department of Business work with Continuing Studies to assist in the evaluation of teaching effectiveness, assessment of student learning, and review of curriculum.

Principle 6.1: Financial Resources

1. The Board of Commissioners recommends that the Department of Business work with administration to review the resources that are available to the business programs to ensure that sufficient resources are provided to support high-quality teaching and learning.
2. The Board of Commissioners recommends that the Department of Business review the administrative support that is available to faculty to ensure that sufficient resources are provided to support high-quality teaching and learning.

Principle 6.2: Facilities

The Board of Commissioners team recommends that the Department of Business explore opportunities to provide classrooms that are located in proximity to faculty offices. A business wing or dedicated area of a building could help to develop a stronger sense of place and a 'business culture' for students and faculty.

Principle 6.4: Educational Technology and Support

The Board of Commissioners team recommends that the Department of Business work with administration to provide reliable wi-fi access across the campus for faculty and students.

Commendations

Commendations are findings of the Board of Commissioners in those areas in which the board believes that the Department of Business is demonstrating excellent performance.

- The Board of Commissioners commends the Department of Business and the faculty for creating business and industry linkages to promote unique and relevant student learning experiences. The advisory board that the faculty has assembled is engaged and deeply committed to the professional success of business students.
- The Board of Commissioners commends the Department of Business, in coordination with the Entrepreneur Innovation Center, for encouraging and supporting educational innovation at the university and enhancing the academic quality of the business programs. The Center's hybrid structure, one that supports both students at the university and local start-up businesses, fosters an exciting collaboration between students, faculty, and local entrepreneurs.

Accreditation represents a continuing relationship between an institution and its accrediting organization. Specialized program accreditation by the IACBE is dependent upon your institution remaining (i) in good standing with your institutional accrediting body and (ii) in compliance with the IACBE's Accreditation Principles and policies. Your accreditation is valid for a maximum of seven years, through April 2024.

All accredited members of the IACBE are required to submit an Interim Quality Assurance Report (IQAR) during their period of accreditation. The IQAR for Framingham State University will be due by June 30, 2021. For more information about the new reporting process, please contact IACBE headquarters.

The following notice pertaining to your accreditation status with the IACBE must be used in your official publications, including your institutional website:

Framingham State University has received accreditation for its business programs through the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE) located at 11374 Strang Line Road in Lenexa, Kansas, USA. The business programs in the following degrees at the listed locations are accredited by the IACBE:

Business Programs	Locations
• Bachelor of Science in Accounting	Framingham, MA
• Bachelor of Science in Business Information and Technology	Framingham, MA
• Bachelor of Science in Finance with concentrations in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Finance○ Financial Planning	Framingham, MA
• Bachelor of Science in Management with concentrations in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Entrepreneurship○ International Business○ Management○ Sport Management	Framingham, MA
• Bachelor of Science in Marketing	Framingham, MA

Framingham State University will be publicly recognized for achieving accreditation at the 2018 IACBE Annual Conference and Assembly Meeting on April 17-20, 2018 in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. We very much look forward to seeing you there.

We encourage the business faculty at Framingham State University to be actively involved in the IACBE's professional development programs and activities, including participation in the IACBE's Annual Conference and Assembly Meetings, regional conferences, and workshops, and serving as site-visit team peer reviewers.

Should you have any questions or if I can be of assistance to you, please contact me through the IACBE's headquarters office.

Sincerely,



Dr. Laurie Yates, Chair
Board of Commissioners