



International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education

December 15, 2014

Dr. Don Bantz, President
Alaska Pacific University
4101 University Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Dr. Bantz:

The IACBE Board of Commissioners met on December 2-4, 2014 to consider the request for accreditation of the business programs offered by the Department of Business Administration at Alaska Pacific University. I am pleased to report that the Board of Commissioners approved your request and granted accreditation to your business programs for a period of one year through December 31, 2015 subject to the notes, observations, and commendations identified below.

Prior to the expiration of this one-year accreditation period, Alaska Pacific University must be reevaluated by the Board Commissioners for an extension of its accreditation for an additional period of up to six years through December 31, 2021. The focus of this review will be the extent to which the university has satisfactorily addressed the issues identified in the aforementioned notes.

Once Alaska Pacific University has addressed the accompanying notes, the university may notify the IACBE in writing of the actions taken and request a reevaluation by the Board of Commissioners. Based on a review of the university's actions in addressing the notes, the Board of Commissioners will then determine the accreditation status of your business programs. The university will be notified in writing of the action of the Board of Commissioners on the request for an extension of its accreditation.

Notes

Notes represent areas in which the institution is not in full compliance with the IACBE's Accreditation Principles. The Department of Business Administration 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 in your annual report to the IACBE.

Principle 1.1: Outcomes Assessment – Degree of Compliance: Partially Compliant

The university's website and catalog must be clear as to what degrees and emphases are offered by the university.

The Department of Business Administration must revise its outcomes assessment plan using the format prescribed by the IACBE to include student learning assessment information for all emphases in the bachelor's- and master's-level programs. Intended student learning outcomes must be articulated for each emphasis, and the direct and indirect measures of student learning must provide for the assessment of these outcomes. Each intended learning outcome, including those in the emphases, must be assessed by at least one direct and one indirect measure of student learning. The revised outcomes assessment plan must include student learning assessment information for all programs and emphases regardless of the number of graduates. Furthermore, the revised outcomes assessment plan must state the performance targets/criteria for the direct and indirect measures of student learning in ways that are directly related to or mapped to intended-outcomes-related criteria in the evaluation rubrics associated with the direct measures and in the instruments used as indirect measures. Please also ensure that assessment data are reported in your annual reports to the IACBE in ways that match the stated performance target/criteria on the student exit survey and employer survey for all MBA programs.

The Department of Business Administration must update the data collection plan for the Mater of Business Administration program to ensure that data for two indirect measures are collected for each graduating class.

The Department of Business Administration must provide confirmation of these changes in the form of a revised outcomes assessment plan no later than November 1, 2015.

Principle 7.6: External Accountability – Degree of Compliance: Substantially Compliant

In order to ensure transparency and accessibility, the Department of Business Administration must update the assessment results posted on its website to include a summary report of the most recent outcomes assessment results for all accredited programs.

The Department of Business Administration must provide confirmation of these updates to the IACBE as soon as the updates are completed.

Observations

Observations are suggestions for improvement by the IACBE Board of Commissioners that it believes would be helpful to the Department of Business Administration in achieving excellence in business education. Action on observations is highly recommended, but is not required.

Principle 4.2: Faculty Load – Degree of Compliance: Fully Compliant

The Department of Business Administration should consider a review of faculty course loads in order to ensure high-quality teaching and to ensure that student learning outcomes are not adversely affected.

Principle 4.5: Faculty Development - Degree of Compliance: Fully Compliant

The Department of Business Administration should continue to explore additional ways to provide support for faculty development. These might include options such as “train-the-trainer” sessions where more experienced faculty lead sessions to exchange ideas with less-experienced faculty members.

Principle 6.1: Financial Resources - Degree of Compliance: Fully Compliant

The Department of Business Administration should consider conducting a salary review in order to benchmark salary ranges that will support a high-quality learning environment that is consistent with its mission and goals.

Commendations

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

- Alaska Pacific University and the local state university (University of Alaska Anchorage) share learning resources with a consortium library that has over 200,000 square feet of learning, teaching, and research space. The library is centrally-located and convenient for both universities to share. There are over 350 electronic databases, 1.2 million books, and 40,000 video instruction materials for students, including a comprehensive website of resources.
- There is a global component in many of the department’s courses. Faculty are engaged in scholarly work directly related to international business. There are also international programs in Europe, e.g., the Danube University of Krems. Alaska Pacific University recognizes the importance of the IACBE and having an international presence. The institution does an excellent job of engaging students in international experiences and the Department of Business Administration shares in this success.
- The department is very creative in both course offerings and delivery methods. Programs include hybrid offerings with an online component, and a three-day, face-to-face offering called “intensives.”

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 as set forth in the *IACBE Bylaws*, *Accreditation Process Manual*, and *Self-Study Manual*. Your accreditation is valid for a maximum of one year, through December 31, 2015.

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

Alaska Pacific University has received specialized accreditation for its business programs through the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE) located at 11374 Strang Line Road in Lenexa, Kansas, USA. The business programs in the following degrees are accredited by the IACBE:

- *Executive Master of Business Administration in Strategic Leadership*
 - *Master of Business Administration*
 - *Accelerated Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and Management/Master of Business Administration*
 - *Bachelor of Arts in Accounting*
 - *Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and Management*
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Alaska Pacific University will be publicly recognized for achieving accreditation at the 2015 IACBE Annual Conference and Assembly Meeting on April 14-17, 2015 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. We very much look forward to seeing you there.

We encourage the business faculty at Alaska Pacific 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. Chip Mason, Chair
Board of Commissioners

cc: Dr. Tracy Stewart, Dean and Chief Academic Officer