



January 6, 2021

Dr. Mandolen Mull
Chair
Department of Economics, Business, and Accounting
Rockford University
5050 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61108

Dear Dr. Mull:

At its December 2020 meeting, the IACBE Board of Commissioners considered your request for the accreditation of the business programs offered by the Department of Economics, Business, and Accounting at Rockford University. After careful consideration and discussion, the Board voted on a Deferral of Accreditation. The issues the Board identified that led to this decision are detailed below.

Reasons for the Deferral of Action on Accreditation

In the judgment of the Board of Commissioners, there are some issues that still must be addressed before reaffirmation of accreditation can be granted to your business programs. These are identified below by Principle:

Principle 2.1: Assessment Planning

Provide a revised Outcomes Assessment Plan, including updated rubrics, surveys, and other assessment instruments. For example, the following items should be addressed along with any other areas that the school identifies as needing revision.

For the Bachelor of Arts program

1. Only part of the End-of-Program Comprehensive Capstone Project rubric was available in the appendix. Provide a complete rubric that is also updated so that the items on the rubric map to the ISLOs as stated in the OAP.
2. Revise the student exit survey – ISLOs 1-6 should be mapped in the exit survey.

For the Bachelor of Science program

1. Update the Capstone project rubric so that the items on the rubric identify which ISLOs 1 – 6 they map to as stated in the OAP.
2. Revise the student exit survey – ISLOs 1-6 should be mapped in the exit survey.

For the Master of Business Administration program:

1. Confirm that the ETS Field Test Exam can measure problem-solving skills (ISLO #1), solution development (ISLO #2), and recommendations of solutions to global issues (ISLO #3). You must be able to see scores in these three specific areas to use this as a direct measure of these ISLOs.
2. Update the Capstone project rubric so that the items on the rubric identify which ISLOs 1 – 6 they map to as stated in the OAP
3. Revise the student exit survey – ISLOs 1-6 should be mapped in the exit survey.

For the Operational Assessment:

1. MBA Alumni Survey – the question referred to in assessment measure #2 is not on the survey. Add this to the survey.
2. Revise the Undergraduate Alumni Survey – the question referred to in assessment #5 is not on the survey. You will want to refer to Question #15 to measure IOO#7.
3. Revise the MBA alumni survey – to fully measure IOO#7 you should also measure this at the MBA level. (Question #15 from the MBA alumni survey also measures IOO#7)

Principle 2.2: Assessment of Student Learning and Operational Effectiveness

1. Submission of an Interim Quality Assurance Report is required. This must include a complete set of data based on implementation of the revised Outcomes Assessment Plan in academic year 2021-22.

Principle 2.3: Continuous Quality Improvement

1. Provide a detailed description of the ways in which you will integrate action plans that arise from implementation of the revised OAP into the strategic planning processes of the Department of Economics, Business, and Accounting and the institution.

Principle 2.4: Summary Reflection: Quality Assessment and Advancement

1. Provide a completed response to Principle 2.4 (refer to the current Self-Study Manual).

Other Findings of the Board of Commissioners

While not reasons leading to the deferral of action on accreditation, the Board of Commissioners identified other issues requiring further action from the Department of Economics, Business, and Accounting. Please provide the information that is requested for each of the following items.

Principle 4.1: Business Program Development and Design

1. Provide a detailed explanation of how the academic business unit ensures equivalent quality between online/hybrid programs and more traditionally delivered, fully on-ground programs.

Principle 4.2: Curricula of undergraduate-Level Business Programs

1. Provide an updated Table 4.3 using the ISLOs as established in the new OAP.
2. For those programs that contain majors (B.A., B.S.) describe the ways in which the Department of Economics, Business, and Accounting ensures academic quality in the disciplinary component areas of the programs.

Principle 4.5: International Dimensions of Business

1. Provide the actual number of students and faculty involved in each experiential learning and co-curricular program related to international business for the past three years.

In order to assist the Department of Economics, Business, and Accounting with revisions to the outcomes assessment plan and address the issues identified above, the Board of Commissioners is requiring a mentor visit from your staff liaison, Cecilia Livengood. She will be in contact with you in the next week to discuss timing and logistics.

To facilitate the Board of Commissioners' review of your deferral please provide the IACBE with a written response to each of the items listed as Reasons for the Deferral of Action on Accreditation and as Other Findings of the Board of Commissioners. Provide a narrative response with supporting documentation to demonstrate program compliance. It is important that you also provide any requested documentation along with a revised Outcomes Assessment Plan that addresses any issue identified above. It is helpful to the Board if the submission uses the following format: 1) copy each issue, 2) embed each response immediately following the corresponding action finding or recommendation. Please submit in MS Word format. Submissions must be in electronic format utilizing a Drop Box which you share with the IACBE, emailed to iacbe@iacbe.org, or saved to a flash drive which is sent to the IACBE office via trackable delivery (e.g. Federal Express). All submissions must be received at the IACBE office as follows:

June 1, 2021: Responses to all of the items listed as Reasons for the Deferral of Action on Accreditation and as Other Findings of the Board of Commissioners.

November 1, 2022: submission of an Interim Quality Assurance Report

The following language must be used on the Department of Economics, Business and Accounting homepage, where "[status page](#)" is a hyperlink to your IACBE member status page at <https://iacbe.org/memberpdf/RockfordUniversity.pdf>

The Department of Economics, Business and Accounting at Rockford University has received specialized accreditation for its business programs through the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE) located at 11374 Strang Line Road in Lenexa, Kansas, USA. For a list of accredited programs please view our IACBE member [status page](#). The specialized accreditation for the programs of the Department of Economics, Business, and Accounting is currently on deferral.

The decision of the Board of Commissioners to defer action on reaffirmation of accreditation of your business programs is, in effect, a ruling of no action on accreditation at this time; therefore, the action cannot be appealed.

Should you have any questions regarding this action or your next steps, please contact your IACBE Liaison, Cecilia Livengood, at clivengood@iacbe.org or 913-631-3009.

Sincerely,



Dr. Patrick Hafford, Chair
Board of Commissioners

C: Dr. Michael Perry – Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs