



RECONSIDERATION OF AFFILIATION

Policy Change Approved on First Reading

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) approved this policy on first reading at its meeting on June 25–26, 2020.

Background

The proposed change would eliminate the policy titled Commission Right to Reconsider Affiliation (INST.B.30.050), which currently allows the Board to initiate a “reconsideration process” to determine whether an institution continues to meet HLC’s Eligibility Requirements or Criteria for Accreditation or is acting in accordance with HLC policies. The reconsideration process has rarely been used since the policy was adopted in 1993, and other existing policies and procedures—including the application of sanctions, the issuance of a Show-Cause Order or the withdrawal of an institution’s accreditation or candidacy—allow HLC to effectively respond to institutions in violation of HLC requirements.

If the Board ultimately adopts these changes on second reading in November 2020, conforming changes that eliminate reference to reconsideration will be made in the following policies:

- Institutional Conformity with Commission Requirements (INST.A.10.030)
- Jurisdiction (INST.B.10.010)
- Board of Trustees (INST.D.10.010)
- Show-Cause (INST.E.30.010)
- Denial or Withdrawal of Status (INST.E.60.010)

Comments Invited

HLC invites comments on this change before the Board takes final action at its meeting on November 5–6, 2020. Comments can be sent to policycomments@hlcommission.org. Comments are due by September 14, 2020.

Proposed Change

Wording that was deleted or revised is shown as strikethrough (~~old wording~~); new language, whether through addition or revision, is shown in bold (**new wording**).

~~Policy Title: Commission Right to Reconsider Affiliation~~

Number: ~~INST.B.30.050~~

~~The Board of Trustees shall reserve the right to reconsider the Status of Affiliation of an institution at any time. Reconsideration will allow the Board to interrupt an institution's scheduled evaluation cycle to make a formal determination whether the institution continues to meet the Eligibility Requirements or Criteria for Accreditation or is acting in accordance with the policies of the Commission. If the Board chooses to exercise its authority under this provision, it will provide to the institution clearly specified reasons related to the Criteria for Accreditation, Eligibility Requirements or Commission policies for its reconsideration and define a process by which the reconsideration shall take place. The institution shall have at least thirty days to respond to the reasons for reconsideration prior to the Board taking action to initiate a reconsideration process. The Board shall take into consideration the institution's response before formally acting to initiate the reconsideration process. The Board will observe Commission policy in conducting the reconsideration process and will complete the reconsideration process no later than the Board meeting subsequent to the next scheduled Board meeting.~~

Policy Number Key

Section INST: Institutional Processes

Chapter B: Requirements for Achieving and Maintaining Affiliation

Part 30: Obligations of Membership and Affiliation

Last Revised: February 2007

First Adopted: February 1993

Revision History: revised February 2007, renumbered June 2010, renumbered February 2011

Notes: Former policy number 2.5(g)

Related Policies