



Middle States Commission on Higher Education

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November 11, 2011

Dr. Rodney A. Erickson, Interim President
The Pennsylvania State University
201 Old Main
University Park, PA 16802

Dear Dr. Erickson,

This letter is written in response to recent coverage in the media concerning the criminal allegations brought forward by the Pennsylvania Attorney General and the related investigations launched by the United States Department of Education.

The policies of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education state, "If an institution conducts its affairs in ways which generate serious public concern, the Commission reserves the right to request further information from the institution." In addition, federal regulations require that the Commission monitor and reevaluate accredited institutions and programs, and conduct special evaluations or visits as deemed necessary.

In our opinion, the recent reports raise questions about the ethical conduct of University officials and constitute cause for concern as to whether the University remains in compliance with the Requirements of Affiliation of the Commission on Higher Education and with Standard 6, Integrity. This concern requires us to request written information.

Therefore, on behalf of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, The Pennsylvania State University is asked to submit an information report by no later than January 2, 2012 addressing the recent developments and/or plans to ensure the University's ongoing compliance with the Commission's Requirements of Affiliation and with Standard 6, Integrity.

In addition, the Commission requests to be kept informed of the status and results of the on-going criminal investigation, the investigation conducted by the United States Department of Education, and/or any subsequent investigations conducted by the NCAA or other governing bodies related to these matters.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to your response. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by email, tguerrero@msche.org or by phone at 267-284-5061.

Sincerely,

Tito Guerrero, III, Ed.D.
Vice President

TG/db