

## ***Summary of Negative Actions: March 15, 2022***

### **INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION**

#### **Place on Probation**

The ABHE Commission on Accreditation has placed Yellowstone Christian College (MT) on probation for failure to comply with the following accreditation standards:

- Standard 3: EE 7 (demonstrate with evidence full integrity in financial matters and in compliance with applicable legal and governmental regulations);
- Standard 5 (demonstrate with evidence that the institution has a team of administrators that brings together its various resources and allocates them to accomplish institutional goals)
- Standard 5: EE 4 (documentation of administrative leaders with education, experiences, and competencies appropriate to the discharge of their duties and to the level of education offered)
- Standard 5: EE 6 (documentation of established written policies and procedures to promote effective operations)
- Standard 6b: EE 1 (demonstrate with evidence financial stability documented by an independent opinioned audit for the 2020-2021 fiscal year);
- Standard 6b: EE 7 (demonstrate with evidence adequate internal controls to safeguard assets, including ensuring the adequate training and knowledge of personnel to prepare and thoroughly implement GAAP-based financial procedures).

A progress report, due September 15, 2022, is required documenting the institution's efforts at addressing these issues. Institutional representatives are expected to meet with the Commission in February 2023 before the Commission makes a decision on subsequent action. The institution retains its accredited status with the Commission on Accreditation while on probation.

Probation status is an appealable action, and such action is not final until the option of appeal has been exhausted. The institution was notified of the action and the opportunity to request a review or appeal on March 4, 2022. No request for review or appeal was filed during the 10-day period allotted. The action of the ABHE Commission on Accreditation to place Yellowstone Christian College (MT) is final, effective March 15, 2022.

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#### **The Meaning of Probation**

Probation is a negative, public action indicating that the COA has determined that the institution no longer complies with one or more of the Standards for Accreditation. The institution retains accredited or candidate status with ABHE during a period of probation, and will be subject to periodic monitoring, which may include progress reports and/or focused visits by COA staff or evaluation teams. Should the institution fail to correct the identified deficiencies within two years, the COA must take adverse action against the institution and remove its accreditation or candidate status. Where there is sufficient progress, the COA may grant a one-year extension of accreditation or candidate status for “good cause” to allow the institution to demonstrate substantial compliance with the Standards for Accreditation. An institution on probation and/or show cause for two years cannot be returned to warning.

A teach-out plan, approved by the COA Substantive Change Officer or the appropriate COA committee, is required for institutions placed on probation. The institution will be required to submit a teach-out plan in accord with specifications in the Policy on Teach-Out Plans and Teach-Out Agreements within 60 days of the notice informing it of the probationary status. If the institution already has an approved teach-out plan on file, a new plan is not required unless changes are necessary.

Placement on probation may be appealed in accordance with the ABHE Policy on Reviews and Appeals. Notification of an appealable action will not be released until appeal options have been exhausted and the action is final.

### **Withdraw Candidate Status**

The ABHE Commission on Accreditation has withdrawn candidate status from Ezra University (CA) in light of the Commission’s judgment that the institution fails to comply with the ABHE Conditions of Eligibility and policies identified below:

- COE 18 – Institutional Stability and Capacity (Must demonstrate a pattern of stability in enrollment, governing board, administration, faculty, and finances)
- COE 21 – Annual Audit (Must have financial records that receive an annual audit)
- COE 22 – Agency Disclosure (Must agree to disclose to the association any and all such information as it may require to carry out its evaluation and accreditation functions)
- COE 23 – Compliance (Must commit to comply with Association’s Standards for Accreditation.
- Policy and Procedures for Institutional Accreditation: 2b Candidate Status: Maintaining Candidate Status (Failure to pay annual dues)

Involuntary withdrawal/termination of candidate or accredited status is an appealable action, and such action is not final until the option of appeal had been exhausted. The institution was notified of the action and the opportunity to request a review or appeal on March 4, 2022. No request for review or appeal was filed during the 10-day period allotted. The action of the ABHE Commission

on Accreditation to withdraw candidate status from Ezra University (CA) is final, effective March 15, 2022.

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