

May 9, 2022

Dr. Stanford Angion, President
Selma University
1501 Boynton Street
Selma, AL 36701
c/d [REDACTED]

Dear President Angion:

The ABHE Commission on Accreditation reviewed your institution at its April 25, 2022, meeting and took the following action:

Order Selma University (AL) to show cause why its accreditation should be continued in light of the Commission on Accreditation's judgment that the institution fails to comply with the ABHE Institutional Accreditation Standards listed below, and require a show cause report addressing these concerns, due November 15, 2022, followed by a focused evaluation team visit to review institutional compliance in these areas:

- **COE 7: Catalog (Evidence of a current and accurate catalog available to students and the public)**
- **COE 8: Assessment and Public Accountability (Documented evidence that information is available to the public concerning student achievement and institutional performance outcomes, including graduation rates and rate of recent graduate employment in program related occupations)**
- **COE 15: Student body (Sustained and viable student enrollment in the institution's educational programs over the past two years)**
- **COE 18: Institutional stability and capacity (documented evidence that the institution has a pattern of stability in enrollment and finances)**
- **COE 19: Financial Base (Financial base indicating that the institution can achieve its mission and goals within a balanced budget and at a safe level of debt)**
- **COE 21, Standard 6b: EE 1 Annual Audit (An institution must have financial records that receive an annual, independent, opinioned audit)**
- **Standard 3: EE 7 (Documentation that the institution demonstrates integrity in financial matters and in compliance with applicable legal and governmental regulations)**
- **Standard 6b: EE 3 (Documentation of adequate revenue streams sufficient to realize institutional goals, including a detailed accounting of the status, and any actions already taken showing the efforts and results of the financial recovery plan)**
- **Standard 6b: EE5 (Appropriate board oversight of financial management to meet public accountability obligations)**
- **Standard 6b: EE 6 (Documentation of sufficient financial reserves to enable effective response to unforeseen financial circumstances and enrollment fluctuations)**
- **Standard 6b: EE 7 (Documentation of adequate internal controls to safeguard assets and protect personnel from accusations of wrongdoing)**
- **Standard 9b: EE 5 (Documentation that the faculty is involved in academic-related decision-making processes especially related to admissions criteria, curriculum, and student development).**

This action is taken for “good cause” as defined by ABHE policies in light of the Commission on Accreditation’s judgment that the institution is more likely than not to achieve full compliance within one year given improvements in administrative stability, financial position, and submission of an annual audit. In cases where an institution has been on probation for two years but has failed to correct its deficiencies, a show cause order can only be issued for good cause.

A show cause order is a negative, public action indicating that an institution’s accredited status will be withdrawn unless it can provide persuasive evidence that such action should not be taken. A teach-out plan, approved by the COA Substantive Change Officer or the appropriate COA committee, is required for institutions placed on show cause. The institution is 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 show cause order. **Since Selma University submitted a teach-out plan in December 2019, a new plan is not required unless changes are necessary.**

The review action to place Selma University (AL) on a show cause order is an action that may be appealed in accordance with the *Policy and Procedures for Reviews and Appeals* and does not become final until the institution has had an opportunity to request an appeal of the decision. You received notification of this action and the opportunity to request an appeal in the Action Letter dated April 29, 2022. Since no request for appeal was filed during the 10-day allotted time, **the decision of the ABHE Commission on Accreditation is final, effective today, May 9, 2022.**

ABHE provides notification of the action to the United States Department of Education, state and provincial postsecondary education offices, and recognized accrediting agencies at the same time as notification is provided to the institution. Within 24 hours of this notification, the action and the reasons for the action will be posted to the ABHE website and appear on the Accreditation Fact Sheet in the institution’s directory listing at www.abhe.org/directory. A link to this action letter will also be available on the ABHE website.

Within 7 days of receipt of this letter, the institution must publish notice of the action as stated below to its website.

The ABHE Commission on Accreditation has issued Selma University (AL) an order to show cause why its accreditation status should be continued. An institution retains its accreditation status with the Commission on Accreditation while under show cause order. The maximum time permitted for a show cause order is one year. Failure to comply with the following specific accreditation standard(s) by the deadline imposed by the Commission on Accreditation will result in removal of the institution’s status with the Commission on Accreditation.

The ABHE Commission on Accreditation has placed Selma University on a show cause order for failure to comply with the following accreditation standards and conditions of eligibility:

- *COE 7: Catalog (Evidence of a current and accurate catalog available to students and the public)*
- *COE 8: Assessment and Public Accountability (Documented evidence that information is available to the public concerning student achievement and institutional performance outcomes, including graduation rates and rate of recent graduate employment in program related occupations)*
- *COE 15: Student body (Sustained and viable student enrollment in the institution’s educational programs over the past two years)*
- *COE 18: Institutional stability and capacity (documented evidence that the institution has a pattern of stability in enrollment and finances)*

- *COE 19: Financial Base (Financial base indicating that the institution can achieve its mission and goals within a balanced budget and at a safe level of debt)*
- *COE 21, Standard 6b: EE 1 Annual Audit (An institution must have financial records that receive an annual, independent, opinioned audit)*
- *Standard 3: EE 7 (Documentation that the institution demonstrates integrity in financial matters and in compliance with applicable legal and governmental regulations)*
- *Standard 6b: EE 3 (Documentation of adequate revenue streams sufficient to realize institutional goals, including a detailed accounting of the status, and any actions already taken showing the efforts and results of the financial recovery plan)*
- *Standard 6b: EE5 (Appropriate board oversight of financial management to meet public accountability obligations)*
- *Standard 6b: EE 6 (Documentation of sufficient financial reserves to enable effective response to unforeseen financial circumstances and enrollment fluctuations)*
- *Standard 6b: EE 7 (Documentation of adequate internal controls to safeguard assets and protect personnel from accusations of wrongdoing)*
- *Standard 9b: EE 5 (Documentation that the faculty is involved in academic-related decision-making processes especially related to admissions criteria, curriculum, and student development).*

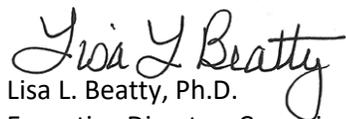
In addition to the report **due November 15, 2022**, and **subsequent focused visit** noted above, the institution will be expected to send representatives to meet with the COA at the **February 2023** meeting to respond to questions regarding its efforts to fully address areas of non-compliance. At that time, the COA will act to either remove the show cause order and reaffirm accreditation or remove Selma University's accredited status. Since Selma University has been out of compliance with ABHE Standards for two years, and the Commission extended the University's accredited status for a third year for good cause, the institution must either demonstrate substantial compliance with all Standards, Essential Elements, and Conditions of Eligibility by February 2023 or have its accredited status removed.

The institution is reminded to consult the **Policy on Substantive Change** (see COA Manual at <https://www.abhe.org/accreditation/accreditation-documents/>) to identify institutional changes requiring a Substantive Change Proposal. The Policy includes specific requirements for institutions that currently are or have been on warning, probation, or show cause in the last three academic years.

Please see the Report Guide at <https://www.abhe.org/accreditation/accreditation-documents/> for assistance in formatting and submitting any reports required by the Commission.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Dr. Wood with any questions that arise regarding this communication. May God bless your continued engagement in biblical higher education.

Sincerely,



Lisa L. Beatty, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Commission on Accreditation

cc: Rev. Darryl Caldwell, Board Chair, c/o [REDACTED]
Dr. Cheryl Washington, Accreditation Liaison, c/o [REDACTED]