

Mr. Vincent Rougeau
President
College of the Holy Cross
One College Street, 119 Fenwick Hall
Worcester, MA 01610

Dear President Rougeau:

I write to inform you that at its meeting on March 1, 2024, the New England Commission of Higher Education considered the report submitted by College of the Holy Cross, as well as the report of the visiting team, and took the following action:

that the report submitted by College of the Holy Cross be accepted;

that the interim (fifth year) report scheduled for consideration in Fall 2025 be confirmed;

that, in addition to the information included in all interim reports as well as the matters specified in our letter of January 13, 2021, the institution give emphasis to its continued success in enhancing the effectiveness of its governance processes, ~~and~~ and communications;

that the comprehensive evaluation scheduled for Spring 2030 be confirmed.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its action.

The report submitted by College of the Holy Cross (Holy Cross) was accepted because it was responsive to the concerns raised by the Commission in its letter of January 13, 2021. As validated by the report of the visiting team, Holy Cross has made “extraordinary efforts” to address its governance challenges. We note with favor the steps taken by the College both prior to the time of the team’s visit and subsequently to address “longstanding” issues related to its governance processes, institutional culture, and a “perceived lack of transparency and effective communication” from the previous administration. We are gratified to learn of the steps taken by the College’s governing board to enhance its own effectiveness, including changes to its committee ~~structure~~ and to support the institutionwide commitment to addressing “past controversies,” including those related to sexual misconduct allegations. Holy Cross is implementing recommendations from the Shared Governance Report

prepared by an external consultant as well as those from the Policy Advisory Committee established in 2023. We further note with favor the College's plans to implement a set of funding priorities to support academic excellence and its plans to solicit "systematic feedback" from faculty and staff and to increase opportunities for formal and informal communication among faculty, staff, administration, and trustees. The Commission shares the confidence of the visiting team that, with the guidance of its "outstanding" leaders, the dedicated community of College of the Holy Cross will be able to move forward with "clarity, unity, and urgency" to rebuild trust and "ensure the College's true excellence for many years to come."

Commission policy requires an interim (five-year) report of all institutions on a decennial evaluation cycle. Its purpose is to provide the Commission an opportunity to appraise the institution's current status in keeping with the Policy on Periodic Review. In addition to the information included in all interim reports and the items specified for attention in the Commission's letter of January 13, 2021, the College is asked, in Fall 2025 to give attention to its continued success in enhancing the effectiveness of its governance processes, policies, and communications. As acknowledged in both the institution's report and the report of the visiting team, many of the initiatives implemented by the College to address its governance challenges are in the "early stages," and achieving its goal to become a "model for outstanding practices" will require the institution's sustained attention over time. We therefore look forward, in the Fall 2025 interim report, to receiving evidence of further progress toward that goal.

The scheduling of a comprehensive evaluation in Spring 2030 is consistent with Commission policy requiring each accredited institution to undergo a comprehensive evaluation at least once every ten years.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the report prepared by College of the Holy Cross and for the report submitted by the visiting team. The Commission also welcomed the opportunity to meet with you and Helen Boucher, board chair, during its deliberations.

You are encouraged to share this letter with all of the institution's constituencies. It is Commission policy to inform the chairperson of the institution's governing board of action on its accreditation status. In a few days we will be sending a copy of this letter to Helen Boucher. The institution is free to release information about the evaluation and the Commission's action to others, in accordance with the enclosed policy on Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions.

The Commission hopes that the evaluation process has contributed to institutional improvement. It appreciates your cooperation with the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education.

If you have any questions about the Commission's action, please contact Lawrence M. Schall, President of the Commission.

Sincerely,