



Middle States Commission on Higher Education

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Dr. William Behre
President
Slippery Rock University
1 Morrow Way
Millersville, Pennsylvania 16057 USA

June 13, 2019

Dear Dr. Behre:

I write to thank you and everyone at Slippery Rock University for welcoming me to your institution to discuss the institution's self-study design. I enjoyed my interactions with the several individuals I met at the scheduled meetings during the time of my visit, including the self-study steering committee which I believe is prepared to engage in meaningful self-study.

I read the final draft of the self-study design and it is clear that it will serve as an effective roadmap and reference for the steering committee and its working groups. The four institutional priorities found in that document—student success; transformation of students; a care community; and, use of resources—appear timely and quite well-aligned with Slippery Rock's mission and with the lines of inquiry that the steering community has chosen. I commend SRU for the care it has taken to select these priorities and align them with the Commission's standards.

The communication plan is well-contemplated and should serve as a tool for gathering feedback from the Slippery Rock community. Those assigned to the working groups appear well-qualified. The evidence inventory is nicely structured and should also give the steering committee a "running start" as it further refines it and uses it as a tool to document compliance with the Commission's expectations. In addition, I appreciate the information regarding preferences for evaluation team members and an evaluation team chair. I assure you that this information will be carefully considered when the time comes to selecting them.

I am very impressed with the leadership of the steering committee and its working groups and am confident that the self-study design will serve as a tool in conducting their work. My advice at this point is a global observation relevant to all institutions undergoing self-study evaluation. I simply caution institutions to ensure that sufficient time and resources are spent to evaluate compliance with the Commission's standards and requirements of affiliation *and* to the selected institutional priorities. Of course, this is not at all a criticism because Slippery Rock's self-study is well-designed. As is my custom, I merely recommend consistently and regularly using assessment results and regular interactions among members of the SRU community to inform its evaluation of its own mission and the selected self-study institutional priorities, all with

a concerted effort to discern innovative paths forward in the interest of adding value to the overall self-study process.

In accordance with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education's self-study evaluation procedures, I approve the self-study design [*Accreditation and Monitoring Procedures, effective date September 1, 2018*]. By approving the design, I recognize that changes to specific self-study lines of inquiry and research questions might indeed occur from time to time, which do not require my approval. So noted, I invite you or the Steering Committee chairs to contact me at any time should clarification be needed on any of the Commission's processes, procedures, guidelines, or Requirements of Affiliation and Standards for Accreditation.

I close with my appreciation for the institution's hospitality, its commitment to peer review, and for a well-developed and impressive self-study design. Should there be any need to contact me, please do not hesitate to do so. I can be reached at smckitrick@msche.org, at 267-284-5020 (office) or at 856-580-4121 (cellular).

Sincerely,



Sean A. McKittrick, Ph.D.
Vice President