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Assistant
Vice President
for Academic Affairs

May 6, 2016

Ms. Ellen Cook
Assistant Vice President
for Academic Affairs
The University of Louisiana at Lafayette
P.O. Box 43588
Lafayette, LA 70504-3588

Dear Ms. Cook:

Thank you for your letter of January 4, 2016, to the Commission seeking approval to close the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program dietetics, also referred to as the didactic program in dietetics, effective spring 2016.

The decision to close is based on the program graduates' low pass rate for the past five years on the Registered Dietician Certification Examination. The institution plans to retrench the program and possibly re-open at a later date. Keep in mind that a closed program may be re-opened within five years of the date of closure by sending a letter of notification to the Commission prior to implementation provided the program and its resources are substantially unchanged from the time of closure. If more than five years have passed or if the program is substantially changed, then consult your Commission staff representative, Dr. Nuria M. Cuevas, to determine if a prospectus and approval are required prior to implementation. The institution has petitioned the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics for approval to halt new admissions and transfers.

The program will close as of spring 2016, the date when new students will no longer be admitted. Students were informed of the closure in January 2016, in face-to-face meetings with the dean of nursing and allied health professions. Faculty and staff were informed in January 2016, by the dean and provost. As of the end of fall 2015, 121 students were enrolled in the program. Students are admitted to the program at the beginning of their third (junior) year. The teach-out plan is to continue offering all program courses on schedule through the end of the spring 2019 semester. Students will have the opportunity to complete the program in a timely manner and as planned at the time of their initial matriculation. A course schedule for each semester through spring 2019, was provided. The plan appears to provide ample opportunity for current students to complete all program requirements as planned with minimal disruption. Students will not incur additional costs as a result of the closure. There are no teach-out agreements with other institutions. Tenured faculty members will not be separated; they will teach-out the program's courses to the current students and will thereafter support related courses or programs. The sole non-tenured faculty member has been offered the option of continuing to teach the program's courses through spring 2017, at which time separation is intended. The institution did not note any planned assistance to be provided to the non-tenured faculty member to find an alternate appointment or other employment. No other resource implications were identified.



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The Commission approves the closure of the B.S. degree program dietetics and requests no additional information.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.

President

BSW/KWS:efk

cc: Dr. E. Joseph Savoie, President
Dr. Nuria M. Cuevas