

JOINT PRESS RELEASE
New England Commission of Higher Education and Hampshire College

At its meeting May 30, 2019, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) met with representatives of Hampshire College to consider the College's show-cause response regarding why it should not be placed on probation or have its accreditation withdrawn because the Commission had reason to believe that Hampshire College is not meeting the Commission's Standards on *Organization and Governance* and *Institutional Resources*.

The Commission voted to issue a public Notation that Hampshire College is in danger of being found not to meet the standards on *Organization and Governance* and *Institutional Resources*. The Notation indicates that the institution's accreditation may be withdrawn if current conditions continue or worsen. Because the Commission did not have enough information to make a decision regarding whether to place Hampshire College on probation or withdraw its accreditation, the Commission voted to defer that decision to its meeting in November 2019.

At the time of the meeting, Hampshire College had appointed an interim president and had begun an expedited search for a permanent president. A new Board chair and three new members of the Board are now in place, and the reduced number of employees are at a level the College believes will be able to serve the 600 students it anticipates for Fall 2019. Also at the time of the meeting, the College had received \$7 million in cash and pledges. Deferral until November will afford Hampshire College time to prepare a report for Commission review regarding its success in hiring a President, implementing best practices with respect to Board governance, and developing and implementing realistic plans regarding fund-raising, enrollment and discount rates, and enhancing its long-term sustainability.

In response to the issuance of a public Notation, Hampshire's Interim President Ken Rosenthal said, "There is much we have to accomplish in six short months, but I believe our community is equal to the challenge. We are on an accelerated path to identifying a president and we are putting every possible effort into fundraising. We very much appreciate the Commission's oversight and integrity in upholding the Standards for Accreditation and are committed to meeting its expectations with regard to Organization and Governance and Institutional Resources."

The New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), formerly operating as the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of NEASC, is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a reliable authority as to the quality of education.

The Commission accredits 220 degree-granting institutions in the six New England states and eleven American-style institutions in other countries. Hampshire College was first accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (now NECHE) in 1974 and is a private, independent college offering baccalaureate programs in the liberal arts, calling on students to take responsibility for their education, customize their studies and "move beyond boundaries of disciplines and departments."

Further information may be found at:

New England Commission of Higher Education: <https://www.neche.org>

Hampshire College: <https://www.hampshire.edu>

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