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October 22, 2010

Dr. Ronald D. Liebowitz
President
Middlebury College
Old Chapel - 3rd Floor
Middlebury, VT 05753

Dear President Liebowitz:

I write to inform you that at its meeting on September 17, 2010, the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education considered the report submitted by Middlebury College and took the following action:

that the report submitted by Middlebury College confirming the completion of the merger of Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS) with Middlebury College be accepted;

that the comprehensive evaluation scheduled for Fall 2011 be confirmed;

that, in addition to the information provided in all self-studies, and the matters articulated in the Commission's letters of October 28, 2004, March 19, 2008, and January 12, 2009, the institution give emphasis to its success in implementing and evaluating the "Functional Integration Framework" which guides the integration of MIIS with Middlebury College at the department level as part of realizing the full potential of the operational and programmatic integration.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its action.

The report submitted by Middlebury College was accepted because it was generally responsive to the concerns raised by the Commission in its letter of March 18, 2009.

We commend Middlebury College for the care, judiciousness, and openness taken in bringing to fruition the successful merger with Monterey Institute of International Studies completed in July 2010. This merger, originally formalized in 2005, was appropriately deliberative and inclusive, bringing together two very distinctive faculty and academic cultures. An "Academic Excellence Task Force" has directed this effort, and the development of a "Functional Integration Framework" has given order to the many tasks to be completed at the program level. This Task Force also has streamlined the

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effort after earlier larger program committees began the collaborative work. We congratulate both institutions for a thorough analysis of the benefits and risks of an affiliation, and for addressing financial hurdles related to the economic downturn and significant cultural differences.

The scheduling of a comprehensive evaluation in Fall 2011 is consistent with Commission policy requiring each accredited institution to undergo a comprehensive evaluation at least once every ten years. In addition to the matters articulated in the Commission letter of October 28, 2004, March 19, 2008 and January 12, 2009, the items the Commission asks to be given special emphasis within the self-study prepared for the comprehensive evaluation are related to our standards on *Planning and Evaluation* and *The Academic Program*.

Operational and programmatic integration continue in support of realizing the full potential of the combined institution. The "Functional Integration Framework" has facilitated collaboration of department-level integration and other specific integration projects, and operational and programmatic integration continues to focus on realizing the full potential of the combined institution. As part of the Fall 2011 self-study, we look forward to learning about the institution's continued success here as informed by our standards on *Planning and Evaluation* and *The Academic Program*:

The institution has a demonstrable record of success in implementing the results of its planning (2.3).

The institution determines the effectiveness of its planning and evaluation activities on an ongoing basis. Results of these activities are used to further enhance the institution's implementation of its purposes and objectives (2.7).

The institution undertakes academic planning and evaluation as part of its overall planning and evaluation to enhance the achievement of institutional mission and program objectives. These activities are realistic and take into account stated goals and available resources. The evaluation of existing programs includes an external perspective and assessment of their effectiveness. Additions and deletions of programs are consistent with institutional mission and capacity, faculty expertise, student needs, and the availability of sufficient resources required for the development and improvement of academic programs. The institution allocates resources on the basis of its academic planning, needs, and objectives (4.9).

The Commission expressed appreciation for the report submitted by Middlebury College and hopes that its preparation has contributed to institutional improvement. It appreciates your cooperation with the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education in New England.

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 Mr. Frederick M. Fritz. The institution is free to release information about the report and the Commission's action to others, in accordance with Commission policy.

If you have any questions about the Commission's action, please contact Barbara Brittingham, Director of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Mary Jo Maydew

MJM/jm
Enclosure

cc: Mr. Frederick M. Fritz