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March 27, 2017

President Jason Shin
South Baylo University
2727 W. 6th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90057

Dear President Shin:

At its meeting of February 23-25, 2017, the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (“ACAOM” or “Commission”) reviewed South Baylo University’s (SBU) applications and related documentation for initial accreditation for both the Los Angeles, CA and the Annandale, VA branch campuses; and its November 30, 2016 *Monitoring Report* responding to ACAOM’s concerns around Criterion 8.12 and SBU’s compliance with NCCAOM exams.

The Commission also reviewed SBU’s request seeking reclassification of its Los Angeles location pursuant to ACAOM’s *Notification of Change Policy*, Section 1.2 - The establishment of an additional location offering 50% or more of a program, rather than as a branch campus under Section 1.3.

Additionally, the Commission received and reviewed a copy of the February 16, 2017, formal *Accusation* against South Baylo University, dba South Baylo University School of Oriental Medicine, filed by the California (CA) Department of Consumer Affairs’ (DCA) Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE), Case #999965.

Commission Findings:

1. The Commission found that SBU met the two (2) requirements identified in ACAOM’s September 11, 2016 Action Letter, namely:
 - A. SBU hosted an ACAOM staff visit to its Anaheim and Los Angeles locations.
 - B. SBU timely submitted a monitoring report effectively addressing Criterion 8.12.

2. The Commission found that information contained in the *Accusation*, Case #999965, filed by CA BPPE, and its twenty-two (22) “Causes for Discipline” is substantial, credible and contains allegations that, if proven, present non-compliance issues with ACAOM’s *Standards* and *Policies* including, but not limited to, the following:

ACAOM Integrity in the Accreditation Process Policy

ACAOM Accreditation Procedures Policy

ACAOM Notification of Change Policy

3.1 External Agency Actions

ACAOM Eligibility Requirements

4.0.3, 4.0.8, 4.0.10, 4.0.17

ACAOM Standards

Standard 2 – Legal Organization

Criterion 4.4 – Integrity

Criterion 5.1 – Permanent Records

Criterion 6.2 – Transfer Credit

Criterion 6.8 – English Language Competency

Criterion 13.10 – Refund Policy

Standard 3 - Governance

Standard 5 – Records

Standard 6 – Admissions

Criterion 6.7 – Recruitment

Criterion 13.8 – Financial Aid Operation

Commission Action:

Consistent with ACAOM's *Commission Actions Policy*, the Commission took the following actions:

1. To accept SBU's November 30, 2016 Monitoring Report and supporting documentation as demonstration of compliance with further development for ACAOM Criterion 8.12. No further action by SBU involving Criterion 8.12 is required at this time.
2. To grant SBU's request to reclassify its Los Angeles, CA location to "[T]he establishment of an additional location offering 50% or more of a program" as provided by ACAOM's *Notification of Change Policy*, Section 1.2
3. To approve SBU's revised application seeking recognition of its Los Angeles, CA location as an "additional location" of its main campus effective February 25, 2017.
4. Based on "Causes for Discipline" cited in Case #999965, particularly those involving institutional integrity and unethical behavior, it appears to the Commission that SBU is seriously out of compliance with ACAOM Standard 4 (Criterion 4.4: Integrity). Consistent with ACAOM's *Commission Actions Policy* ("Commission Sanctions," [Imposition of] Sanctions for Unethical Behavior, p.8), the Commission will terminate the accreditation status of SBU and all its locations by March 27, 2018 unless SBU can "show cause" why the Commission should not terminate its accreditation status by demonstrating that it has responded satisfactorily to the Commission's concerns outlined herein, and is in material compliance with all of the Commission's *Eligibility Requirements* and/or *Standards and Criteria for Accreditation*. Programs and Institutions placed on *Show Cause* may request reconsideration of this decision. The reconsideration procedures are designed as a continuation of the accreditation peer review process and are therefore considered to be non-adversarial. (See page 8 of ACAOM's Commission Actions Policy for reconsideration procedures.)
5. To require SBU to host a virtual meeting with ACAOM's Executive Director (ED) and Director of Regulatory Affairs (DRA) within 60 days of the date of this letter (**May 26, 2017**), to discuss the reasons for the Commission's "show cause" sanction and to discuss the program's plans for addressing the issues that gave rise to the sanction.
6. To require SBU to submit to ACAOM a **Show Cause Monitoring Report** no later than December 1, 2017 addressing the then status of Case #999965 and Paragraph 2 of the "Commission Findings" outlined above – particularly ACAOM Criterion 4.4: Integrity.
7. To **defer action** on the review of initial accreditation for SBU's Annandale, VA branch campus, and to extend pre-accreditation (Candidacy) status of SBU's Annandale, VA branch campus subject to the outcome of Case #999965.

****Please note the Commission is not bound by a rigid sequence of actions nor precluded from taking action at any time as warranted by evolving circumstances.***

Please note that SBU is under a continuing obligation to timely notify ACAOM of actions taken by external agencies. (See ACAOM's Notification of Change Policy, Paragraph 3.1, pages 9-10, attached)



March 27, 2017

DISCLOSURES TO THE PUBLIC BY THE INSTITUTION

Consistent with ACAOM Policies and *Standards*, SBU must publish the following public disclosure notification in its catalogue, on its website, and/or in any other public announcements that include accreditation information:

The Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM) has placed South Baylo University and all its locations and programs, on *Show Cause* why its accreditation status should not be terminated effective February 25, 2017 through February 2018. The institution retains accredited status during this period. ACAOM is the recognized accrediting agency for programs preparing acupuncture and Oriental medicine practitioners. ACAOM is located at 8941 Aztec Drive, Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55347; phone 952/212-2434; fax 952/657-7068.

Use of language other than that so designated is not permitted without prior written permission from Commission staff. The Commission must receive a copy of, or a link to, the public announcement of its accredited status with ACAOM within fifteen (15) calendar days of receipt of this *Action Letter*.

Please contact ACAOM staff if you have any questions about the Commission's requirements of your accredited institution/program and to schedule the staff visit.

Sincerely,



Mark S McKenzie, PhD (China), MSOM, L.Ac
Executive Director
Mark.McKenzie@acaom.org

Cc: Kathy Taromina, DACM, L.Ac, Chair

Attachments: See ACAOM's website for current versions of all policies referenced herein.

