



TRANSNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

May 23, 2025

President Seung Je Jeremiah Cho
Bethesda University
730 North Euclid Street
Anaheim, CA 92801

RE: Notice of Warning Sanction

Dear President Cho:

At its meeting on April 28, 2025, the TRACS Accreditation Commission voted to place Bethesda University (BU) on "Warning" due to the institution's non-compliance with TRACS Standards 4.1 (IER), 8.11, 11.1 (IER), 11.6, 11.7, 13.1 (IER), and 13.2, and failure to comply with TRACS policies and associated Federal Requirements – BP203 Annual Reporting [34 CFR §602.19(b)], and BP215 Decisions of State and Other Accrediting Agencies [34 CFR §602.28].

As you are aware, TRACS Policy BP215 requires Annual Reporting by each TRACS member institution every fall. The analysis of the Bethesda University (BU) Annual Operational Report (AOR) to TRACS noted that BU failed to report its status with its programmatic accreditor The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) Commission on Accreditation. In reporting its status with ABHE, Bethesda University (BU) failed to report the most recent action by ABHE in a letter dated June 27, 2024, notifying BU that it was placed on warning by ABHE.

Due to the lack of transparency by BU related to the June 27, 2024, ABHE letter placing BU on warning, BU is in violation of TRACS Policy BP215:

BP215 Decisions of State and Other Accrediting Agencies [34 CFR §602.28]:

- 7. Institutions which are pre-accredited or accredited by another recognized accrediting agency will submit, within 60 days of receipt, copies of the final visiting team report and any findings of non-compliance identified by the other agency. Institutions will be considered out of compliance with any TRACS standard which is equivalent to the other agency's standards with which the institution was found out of compliance.***

In addition, the TRACS Office received communication from ABHE via a letter dated February 28, 2025, that BU is being continued on warning and the concerns of marginal compliance have been expanded to include Programmatic Standards:

- 1: EE 2 On-time submission of all required reports
- 5: EE 1 Documented Evidence of the budgeting process

- 9: EE 3 Documented Evidence of services for at-risk students and to improve student achievement.

BU is required to submit a Compliance Report addressing TRACS Standards 4.1 (IER), 8.11, 11.1 (IER), 11.6, 11.7, 13.1 (IER), and 13.2, and any other reports/information required by TRACS staff regarding failure to comply with TRACS policies and associated Federal Requirements – BP203 Annual Reporting [34 CFR §602.19(b)], and BP215 Decisions of State and Other Accrediting Agencies [34 CFR §602.28]. The Compliance Report is due no later than September 1, 2025, for consideration by the Accreditation Commission at the October 2025 meeting.

According to Federal Regulation § 602.26 (b) you are required to disclose this action of Warning within seven (7) business days of receipt to all current and prospective students.

Finally, since the placing of an institution on Warning is a public action, BU must accurately present this status in all publications and communications including the institution's website. The wording to be used for this notification is as follows:

Bethesda University was placed on Warning by the TRACS Accreditation Commission on April 28, 2025. This Warning status will be reviewed by the Accreditation Commission no later than its October 2025 meeting.

The Accreditation Standards and policies referenced in this letter may be found on the TRACS website. In addition, any person inquiring about the accreditation status of BU will be informed of the Warning status.

Dr. Tanmay Pramanik will be available to work with your institution as you move toward addressing this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the TRACS office at (434) 525-9539.

Sincerely,



Timothy W. Eaton, Ph.D.
President

Posted on Portal: Compliance Report

Cc: Elizabeth Daggett, Accreditation Group Director, U.D. Department of Education
Michael Stein, Office of Postsecondary Education
Dr. Philip E. Dearborn, President ABHE
Ebony Santee, Education Administrator, BPPE
Richie Barnard, BPPE
Jennifer Kunkle, BPPE