

November 19, 2004

TO: Life University Board of Trustees  
Life University Faculty, Students and Staff

FROM: Guy F. Riekeman, DC, President

RE: **CCE/COA Decision**

Today I received notice from the CCE's Commission on Accreditation (CCE/COA) regarding Life University's application for accreditation. While the decision is not as definitive as we wanted, it is very positive and reflects the truly heroic work of our administration, faculty and staff in shepherding the organization through this process.

As you remember from my announcement last week, I wrote that the COA could reject our application, accredit Life without concerns, or ask us to address specific concerns and thus defer a final decision until a later date. The COA provided highly positive feedback when we went before the Commission. They have decided to defer a final decision while we continue to progress on several key issues.

All of the concerns the COA has identified were ones that we had already self-identified through the work of the Self-Study Committee as it prepared its report. Headed by Dr. Brian McAulay, Provost, and Dr. Karen Numeroff, Director of the CCE Self-Study, the Committee had already implemented active plans for addressing these concerns. Our challenge has always been time, and these concerns will be addressed given some additional time. The CCE/COA recognized this and the significant strides the institution has taken, and wants us to complete the processes we've started. We are scheduled to meet with the COA again in July 2005. We believe this approach is reasonable and speaks quite positively about Life's efforts and its future.

The CCE and Life University have jointly prepared the following official statement that describes our accredited status. This information will appear on the web sites and in official literature of both organizations.

“The Commission on Accreditation recognizes Life University College of Chiropractic's commitment to be in compliance with CCE Standards and commends the faculty, staff and students of LUCC for their dedication and many accomplishments reported by the Site Team Visit in August-September 2004.

Further reporting by LUCC will be provided to the COA in Spring 2005 with a tentative Status Review Meeting in July 2005. LUCC has held programmatic accredited status since 1985. Life's accredited status continues.”

We will host campus meetings following the Thanksgiving break to answer any additional questions from our campus community and share any updates on our progress that might be available at that time. Between now and then, we are focusing on our next major hurdle – our re-affirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Once this step has been accomplished, we will be better able to turn our substantial energies to strategic planning and growing Life University into the future.

Let me just add on a personal note that I could not possibly be more proud to be associated with an organization as I am to serve as President of Life University at this time in its history. The effort to survive and recover over the past two years, while maintaining quality programs in the face of what many thought to be insurmountable odds, is nothing less than heroic. I have never seen people work so hard or care so much about what they are doing. There is still critical work ahead and I know we can't afford to get tired or lose sight of our goals, but I am looking forward to celebrating our great accomplishments together as we continue to progress and succeed in ways that many thought impossible.

Thank you to each of you for the continued investment of your time, talents and insatiable energies as we move forward. And a special thanks to Drs. Ribley, McAulay, Downes, Numeroff and Gross for their work at the COA meeting last week. I was proud to lead these colleagues in this effort.