



August 15, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Chaouki Abdallah, President  
University of New Mexico  
1 University of New Mexico  
MSC05 3300  
Albuquerque, NM 87131

Dear President Abdallah:

The New Mexico Department of Higher Education recently notified the Higher Learning Commission (“HLC” or “the Commission”) of an ongoing comprehensive audit of the University of New Mexico (“the University”) by the New Mexico State Auditor. Based on the information HLC received, this audit appears to have been initiated due to concerns related to the University’s oversight of its Athletics Department. Based on media reports, however, the State Auditor has recently announced more general concerns regarding financial management practices at the University.

The information received from the New Mexico Department of Higher Education and the information reported in the media raise concerns regarding the University’s financial oversight; and therefore, concerns regarding the University’s compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation. Under HLC policy COMM.C.10.040, Relations with State Higher Education Agencies and Other State Offices, the Commission considers the reports, findings, and actions taken by state offices in determining compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation.

Because this audit remains ongoing, with an expectation of completion in the Fall, the University should prepare a brief report that provides the following information: a summary of the basis for the audit, the actions taken by the State Auditor, an overview of any actions that have been taken or will be taken by other state offices, and a summary of the audit’s impact on the University. The University should clearly articulate any corrective actions that have been taken in response to this audit and concerns regarding its financial management.

I ask that you provide this information within thirty days of this letter, or no later than **September 14, 2017**. Please submit documentation in accordance with the enclosed *Document and Submission Guidelines*. The Commission will review this report with the expectation that the University will submit the completed audit report as soon as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this request.

President Abdallah, August 15, 2017 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rucker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Rucker  
Research and Advocacy Coordinator for Legal and Governmental Affairs

Enc: Document and Submission Guidelines

Cc: Joseph Suilmann, Accreditation Program Manager, University of New Mexico  
Mary Vanis, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission  
Zach Waymer, Manager for Legal and Governmental Affairs, State Relations and  
Institutional Complaints, Higher Learning Commission  
Karen Peterson Solinski, Executive Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs,  
Higher Learning Commission

## Document and Submission Guidelines

for Legal and Governmental Affairs

### Document Guidelines

All documents must be submitted in PDF format. Unless otherwise specified, a submission should be a single PDF file that contains all materials.

The individual documents within the submission should be bookmarked. The submission should also be indexed, made searchable, and should include internal linking across individual documents as needed.

Documents should not contain links to **external** websites or files.

### Document Submission

Institutions should submit all materials electronically. Please **do not** submit hard copies of materials to HLC, unless directed to do so by HLC.

Upload the file to <https://www.hightail.com/u/HLC-LGA>. In the subject line, please include the institution name and subject (e.g. Narnia University - Notice Report or Narnia University - Change of Control Application). Do not email files directly to HLC Staff.

Staff will acknowledge receipt of successful submission upon request.