From: "ISAAC ROLAND" <vauhan@yahoo.com>
To: "Richard Novak" <degrees@university-services.net>
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2005 8:10 AM
Subject: Re: accreditation/modified draft

Dear Dr. Novak,

In consultation with Ambassador Prince Porte, I am sending a modified draft of the document to be prepared by the Office of the Director General, National Commission on Higher Education, Republic of Liberia, and sent to all relevant parties concerned to try to resolve the problem with SRU. As modified the draft should read thus:

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

It has come to the attention of the Commission that a disclaimer notice written and signed by me and approved by the Chairperson of the Commission has been and is being misused and/or misunderstood. It is my intention to clarify this issue to prevent any further speculation on the actual status of St. Regis University.

First I would like to verify that St. Regis University is currently undergoing the actual accreditation process in keeping with the NATIONAL POLICY ON HIGHER EDUCATION in the Republic of Liberia. Accordingly, it had formally applied to the Commission and had established the headquarters while the accreditation is process pending approval.

Since the disclaimer notice, we have received several reactions from the authorities of the schools in their attempt to refute the allegations leveled against the institutions concerned. What the Commission observed is that the allegations were leveled against these schools (of course mainly St. Regis and others) by individuals who are probably against the operations of the University, and none should be accepted as coming from any sort of official or expert on education. Therefore, the Commission is carefully examining the allegations and it will soon meet to decide the issue of accreditation.

What the Commission also observed is that no accreditation associations or the Department of
Education in any state in the United States has raised any issue or has critically and carefully examined and analyzed the allegations, and it is clear that the allegations stemmed mainly from individuals, none of which has provided any concrete evidence of any wrongdoing or any evidence of the issuance of "bogus" degrees. These allegations can only be considered as hearsay or opinions from individuals offering no substantiation. We further observed that St. Regis is not based in the United States.

To further clarify, the claims made by certain individuals regarding these schools do not refer to the owners or authorities.

Dr. Novak, this is how we have modified the document. I would advise that your coming to Liberia should be scheduled after January 10, 2005 because I will be traveling to Sierra Leone for 5 days, starting from the 5th of January. My presence in the country to call a major meeting of the Commission is extremely important for any important decision to be taken concerning the issue of SRU.

Let me also emphasize that your presence in Liberia would be very important so that a meeting could be arranged with the U.S. Embassy for further clarifications on the St. Regis issue. You represent the Administration; therefore any clarifications from you would extremely important in the interest of SRU.

If this draft is acceptable, then you should indicate the names and addresses to whom it should be sent on the official letterhead of the Commission, and this will be signed by me.

Thank you very much.

Dr. Roland

— Richard Novak <degrees@university-services.net> wrote:

> Dear Dr. Issac Roland, I would like to thank you for sending the letter about accreditation. I appreciate it. I would like to address the major problem. What
I really need a letter from you recognizing the fact that the Universities and staff are suffering because no one believes that the E-mail is actually from you. I could write it and said it was from you. Because all three Universities are being adversely affected by the "Not Accredited Letter" and by the same ignorant people who have caused trouble in the past, and are misunderstanding your true meaning about Re-accreditation, we need a strong and clear letter explaining everything. The Board has taken all of this under advisement and has come up with what they believe will provide closure once and for all to this problem.

The Board would like to pay for legal costs of drafting a letter, having it signed by you and the MOE with official seals and have it fed exed to four different authorities. They have researched this and found that the cost should be about $2,500.00 which they will send to your Atty. or to you to find the best person to do this. The Board will be happy to help with clarifications which should also take pressure off of the accreditation process as how you are having difficulty getting everyone involved together at one time. They feel that because of all of the extreme legal issues that are adversely affecting the running of the three Universities that this matter has to come to a positive conclusion within two weeks.

If you feel that this can be accomplished within this two week period the Board will send you half of the fee now with the prewritten letters and four addressed shipping envelopes each with the proper amount of money for shipping DHL. As soon as the return receipts arrive the balance of the funds will be sent to you DHL, or whatever method you advise. Please let me know your ideas or opinion of this. I would also like you to tell me if you think this whole process would work any faster if I were to join you in Monrovia where I would be able to assist you and Ambassador Porte. I would be able to bring all of the materials and funds.

The following is what the Board would like to see drafted:

FROM:
Isaac Roland, Ed.D.
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

WAAG 04361

6/22/2006

Exhibit 2  p3
To All Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that a disclaimer notice written by myself has been and is being misunderstood. It is my intent to clarify this issue to prevent any further speculation on the actual status of St. Regis University, James Monroe University and Robertstown University, the intentions of the owners of these schools and the Liberian government.

First, I would like to verify that St. Regis University, James Monroe University and Robertstown University are each headquartered in Monrovia, Liberia and have always been owned by properly organized Liberian corporations to operate as degree granting universities.

St. Regis University, James Monroe University and Robertstown University have no presence in the US and none are based in any states in the United States.

Since the disclaimer notice, we have received several reactions from the authorities of these schools in their attempt to refute the allegations leveled against the institutions. What the Commission observed is that the allegations were leveled against these schools by individuals who are probably against the Universities' operations, and none should be accepted as coming from any sort of official or expert on education. Therefore, the Commission is carefully examining the allegations and it will soon meet to decide the issue of the accreditation.

What we observed is that no accreditation associations or the Department of Education in any state in the United States that has carefully and critically analyzed the allegations and that it is clear that the allegations stemmed mainly from individuals none of which has provided any concrete evidence of any wrongdoing or any evidence of the issuance of "bogus" degrees. These allegations can only be considered as hearsay or opinions from individuals offering no substantiation.

To further clarify, the false claims made by "certain unscrupulous individuals" regarding these
> schools does not refer to the schools owners or 
> officers. In fact my letter clearly stated that the 
> false claims were made by a former government 
> official, namely Mr. Lawrence Bestman. Bestman, the 
> former Executive Director of the Commission who had 
> been dismissed since October 14, 2003. Hence any 
> approvals granted by Bestman after this date for any 
> university accreditation would not have been proper. 
> 
> > I have seen evidence that my letter had been misused 
> > or misunderstood that the words "certain 
> > unscrupulous individuals" were directed toward the 
> > school's officials, but this interpretation of my 
> > words made by others is not accurate and grossly 
> > unfair to St. Regis University, James Monroe 
> > University and Robertstown University. 
> > 
> > Because St. Regis University, James Monroe 
> > University and Robertstown University first applied 
> > for accreditation prior to this date it is certain 
> > that the school's officials had no knowledge that 
> > their accreditation certificates signed after 
> > Bestman was dismissed were not effective. This does 
> > not mean that the schools did not meet the criteria 
> > to be accredited, and in fact it appears that they 
> > each do operate in compliance with all Liberian laws 
> > and regulations. 
> > 
> > Infrastructure in our country has been heavily 
> > damaged during many years of civil war making our 
> > communications systems very unreliable (at best) and 
> > in fact there was no centralized system such as a 
> > Liberia Government website to provide such 
> > information to the public and to the universities. 
> > There was also a change in government creating some 
> > confusion which could have provided a situation 
> > wherein an unscrupulous person such as Bestman could 
> > have taken advantage of the schools. Bestman was 
> > the person the schools had proper contact with 
> > before his dismissal and who was at one time the 
> > proper official. 
> > 
> > Let it be known that these three schools have upon 
> > receiving notice of this situation reapplied for 
> > re-accreditation through proper channels through the 
> > National Policy on Higher Education in Liberia. Each 
> > school has submitted all required information and 
> > each has met or exceeded all criteria set forth by 
> > the Education Ministry of Liberia.
None of these schools should be characterized as "bogus", "fake" or "substandard".

Due to a lawsuit initiated in the U.S., St. Regis University has since applied for a change of name, and will begin operating under a new name upon completion of the accreditation process.