December 20, 2004

FROM:  
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DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

To All Whom It May Concern

It has come to the attention of the National Commission on Higher Education that a disclaimer notice written by the Commission has been and is being misused and/or misunderstood. It is therefore the intention of the Commission to clarify this issue to prevent any further speculation on the actual status of St. Regis University and others. Hence, the intention of the owners of the school and the National Commission on Higher is to ensure that these clarifications are understood.

First, I would like to verify that St. Regis University is in the process of reaccreditation and has now established its headquarters in Monrovia, Liberia.

The second observation is that St Regis University and other related online institutions have no presence in the United States, and are not based in any states in the United States.
Since the disclaimer letter, the Commission has received several reactions from the authorities of St. Regis University in their attempt to refute the allegations leveled against it and other institutions. What the Commission further observed is that the allegations were leveled against the school by individuals who are probably against the University’s operation, and none should be accepted as coming from any sort of 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 also noticed is that no accreditation associations or the Department of Education in any state in the United States 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 wrong doing 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 claims made by “certain individuals” regarding the school do not refer to the school’s owners or officers. In fact, the Commission’s letter clearly stated that the problems were caused by the former Executive Director, Dr. Lawrence Bestman who has been dismissed since October 14, 2003. Hence any approvals granted by Dr. Bestman after this date for any university accreditation would not have been proper without the approval of the Chairperson of the National Commission on Higher Education.

Let it be known that St. Regis University, upon receiving the letter concerning the situation, has reapplied for accreditation through the proper channel, as spelled out in the National
Policy on Higher Education in Liberia. The accreditation is now in process.

Finally, the authorities of the St. Regis University have argued consistently that the institution should not be characterized by any individual or entity as "bogus", "fake" or substandard.

Thank you for your understanding.