



March 1, 2010

Yamil Samalot-Rivera
Dominican Study Center of the Caribbean
Apartado Postal 1968
Bayamon, PR 00960-1968

Dear Rev. Samalot-Rivera:

The Board of Commissioners met in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in February 2010 and included on its agenda the report of the comprehensive evaluation committee. The board also reviewed the institution's self-study. After reviewing the information in light of the pertinent Commission Standards and Procedures, the board voted:

1. To reaffirm accreditation of the Dominican Study Center of the Caribbean (CEDOC) for a period of seven years (fall 2016).

2. To approve the following degree programs:

Master of Divinity (MDiv)
Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology (MA in Pastoral Theology)
Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) (MA [Biblical Studies])
Master of Arts (Theological Studies) (MA [Theological Studies])

3. To encourage that continued attention be given to enhancing the following distinctive strengths during the next term of accreditation:

- a. The constructive and collaborative relationship with the Universidad Central de Bayamón (UCB).
- b. The effective and visionary leadership provided by the dean and his administrative team that builds on the legacy of their predecessors.
- c. The talented and well-prepared student body that is present in all of the degree programs.
- d. The mission of CEDOC as an institution for the training of candidates for ordained priesthood and lay ministry; a mission that provides opportunities for students to proceed with their theological education with creativity and flexibility.
- e. The emphasis on theological reflection, research, and holistic theological education (spiritual, pastoral, human, and intellectual formation) in the contemporary Caribbean context, a legacy that traces its roots to the founding of the school in 1532.
- f. The dedicated faculty, administration, and staff.
- g. The unwavering support of the Board of Trustees for the identity, mission, and financial stability of CEDOC.
- h. The quality of the library collection, its effective use, and the efficient management provided by the library staff.

4. To take actions regarding the following areas of needed improvement:

a. To authorize a focused visit by spring 2013 to assess the following:

(1) That the faculty, administration, and trustees approve and strengthen the proposed strategic plan by:

(a) identifying agents who are responsible for the accomplishment of specific tasks;

(b) setting realistic time lines for the accomplishment of tasks;

(c) establishing a process for systematic, regular evaluation of its effectiveness (ATS Commission Standard 1); and

X (2) To ensure that there is a stable and effective community of learning in each of the degree programs (ATS Commission Degree Program Standards A, C, and E; ATS Commission Standard 4, section 4.2.0.2) by :

(a) exploring strategies to increase enrollment in all of the degree programs (ATS Commission Standard 4, section 4.2.0.2);

(b) developing a plan for increasing full-time faculty (ATS Commission Standard 6, section 6.1.3);

(c) identifying personnel to oversee and develop a pastoral formation component for lay students in the ministerial leadership degree programs (MDiv, MAPT) (ATS Commission Standard 6, section 6.1.8); and

(d) identifying personnel to oversee and develop a spiritual formation component for lay students in the MDiv program (ATS Commission Standard 6, section 6.1.8).

(3) To clarify the governance structure in relationship to the Dominican Vicariate, the Universidad Central de Bayamón, and the Council of Founders (ATS Commission Standard 8, sections 8.1, 8.1.2.1, 8.2, 8.3.1.5).

X (4) To strengthen the programs of CEDOC by reviewing the present collaborative agreement with the Universidad Central de Bayamón in an effort to achieve greater collaboration and use of human, physical, and assessment resources (ATS Commission Standard 9, section 9.6).

(5) To encourage CEDOC to simplify and implement an effective plan for assessment of student learning that is focused on programmatic outcomes rather than individual course outcomes as required by ATS Commission Standard 1, section 1.2.2, and "A Guide for Evaluating Theological Learning" (ATS Handbook of Accreditation, Section 8) by:

(a) refining the number of data points;

(b) analyzing the data by the whole faculty and administration;

(c) making decisions about the significance of the data gathered for purposes of either improvement or endorsement of outcomes; and

(d) identifying a manageable number of key indicators that will provide the evaluative information for planning and improvement of teaching and learning.

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(6) To undertake a review of the heavy workloads of present faculty and administration in order to assess the viability of proposed new initiatives as well as to enhance the effective delivery of the present programs of CEDOC (ATS Commission Standard 6, section 6.1.8; Standard 9, section 9.1.1).

X(7) To strengthen development and fundraising activities to enhance CEDOC's ability to fulfill its mission (ATS Commission Standard 9, section 9.2.4).

X(8) To increase financial support for collection development of the library (ATS Commission Standard 5, section 5.5.3).

b. In preparation for the focused visit, the school is asked to submit written documentation on the progress in addressing the items listed above, as well as to provide a copy of any additional information pertinent to CEDOC submitted by the Universidad Central de Bayamón to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE).

I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Tisa Lewis, Director
Accreditation and Institutional Evaluation

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CC: Msgr. Jeremiah McCarthy