



December 14, 2025

Dr. Marcelo Suárez-Orozco
Chancellor
University of Massachusetts Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Chancellor Suárez-Orozco:

I am pleased to inform you that at its meeting on November 20, 2025, the New England Commission of Higher Education took the following action with respect to University of Massachusetts Boston:

that University of Massachusetts Boston be continued in accreditation;

that the institution submit an interim (fifth-year) report by January 15, 2030 for consideration in Spring 2030;

that, in addition to the information included in all interim reports, the Spring 2030 interim report give emphasis to the institution's success in:

1. further strengthening the institution's internal governance structures, with an emphasis on clarifying staff roles and responsibilities and improving communication;
2. improving the consistency of its assessment practices across the University, with evidence of using the results to enhance curricular development and student success;

that the next comprehensive evaluation be scheduled for Spring 2035.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its actions.

University of Massachusetts Boston is continued in accreditation because the Commission finds the institution to be in compliance with the *Standards for Accreditation*.

The Commission commends University of Massachusetts Boston (UMass Boston) for its:

- comprehensive self-study developed through a collaborative and inclusive process that highlights "UMass Boston's accomplishments and positive trajectory."
- demonstrated commitment to the University's mission that drives the institution's planning and strategic priorities. As a public urban University, the institution's research strengths and response to regional workforce demands are evident through its actions such as the creation of Boston's first "university-assisted" community school.

- “agile” and detailed use of data to assess student success, including gaps in student achievement. As noted by the visiting team, the institution’s academic and personal services provided for students are comprehensive and “foster a culture of trust and student success.”
- financial stability, growth in fundraising, and effective physical and technological infrastructure. The new Beacon Budget Model will further enhance the University’s resource management by providing “a more holistic, all-funds, and multi-year view.”

Commission policy requires an interim (fifth-year) report of all institutions on a decennial evaluation cycle. The purpose of the Spring 2030 interim report is to provide the Commission an opportunity to appraise the institution’s current status in keeping with the Policy on the Periodic Review of Accredited Institutions. In the Spring 2030 interim report, the Commission asks the institution for an update on the following areas identified for development:

1. **further strengthening the institution’s internal governance structures, with an emphasis on clarifying staff roles and responsibilities and improving communication (3.1, 3.2).** The effectiveness of recent initiatives implemented to strengthen UMass Boston’s internal governance structures (e.g., hiring a new professional to lead campus-wide professional development activities, upgrading the HR website, and instituting a fully online annual performance evaluation system for all staff), and their success in creating a more cohesive campus community will need to be assessed.
2. **improving the consistency of its assessment practices across the University, with evidence of using the results to enhance curriculum development and student success (4.6; 5.10, 6.19, 8.3, 8.6, 8.8).** As report by the visiting team, “more consistent practices around AQUAD and accreditation reviews ... would benefit institutional effectiveness.” In response, to inform AQUAD reviews, the institution’s University Assessment Council (UAC) has been charged with facilitating cross-campus collaborations by “coordinating assessment efforts [and] sharing findings” that, along with the work being done by student affairs, is intended to improve the holistic experience of UMass Boston students.

The scheduling of a comprehensive evaluation in Spring 2035 is consistent with Commission policy requiring each accredited institution to undergo a comprehensive evaluation at least once every ten years.

You will note that the Commission has specified no length or term of accreditation. Accreditation is a continuing relationship that is reconsidered when necessary. Thus, while the Commission has indicated the timing of the next comprehensive evaluation, the schedule should not be unduly emphasized because it is subject to change.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the self-study prepared by University of Massachusetts Boston and for the report submitted by the visiting team. The Commission also welcomed the opportunity to meet with you, Joseph Berger, Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and Kathleen Kirleis, Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance during its deliberations.

You are encouraged to share this letter with all of the institution’s constituencies. It is Commission policy to inform the chairperson of the institution’s governing board and the head of the system of action on its accreditation status. In a few days we will be sending a copy of this letter to Stephen Karam and Martin Meehan. The institution is free to release information about the evaluation and

Dr. Marcelo Suárez-Orozco

December 14, 2025

Page 3

the Commission's action to others, in accordance with the attached policy on Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions.

The Commission hopes that the evaluation process has contributed to institutional improvement. It appreciates your cooperation with the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education.

If you have any questions about the Commission's action, please contact Lawrence M. Schall, President of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Whelan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Whelan" clearly distinguishable.

Michael Whelan
Commission Chair

MW/mrc

cc: Stephen Karam; stevek@karamfg.com
Martin Meehan; MMeehan@umassp.edu

Attachment: Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions