



January 6, 2026

Dr. Karim Ismaili
President
Eastern Connecticut State University
83 Windham Street
Willimantic, CT 06226-2211

Dear President Ismaili:

I am pleased to inform you that at its meeting on November 20, 2025, the New England Commission of Higher Education considered the interim (fifth-year) report submitted by Eastern Connecticut State University and voted to take the following action:

that the interim (fifth-year) report submitted by Eastern Connecticut State University be accepted;

that the Spring 2026 substantive change visit to assess implementation of the B.S. in Nursing program be confirmed;

that the Fall 2030 comprehensive evaluation be confirmed;

that, in addition to the information included in all self-studies, the self-study prepared in advance of the Fall 2030 evaluation provide further evidence of the University's success in:

1. incorporating the results of the institution's assessment and evaluation efforts in its planning and resource allocation.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its actions.

The interim (fifth-year) report submitted by Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) was accepted because it responded to the issues raised by the Commission in its letter of November 23, 2021 and addressed each of the nine standards, including a reflective essay for Standard 8: *Educational Effectiveness* on student learning and success.

The Commission commends ECSU for its:

- momentum in implementing its new Liberal Arts Core curriculum, including the development of a robust plan to assess student learning.
- achievement of a 83.7% retention rate in Fall 2023.
- continued efforts to support degree completion through the creation of a Division of Student Success and Enrollment, implementation of Slate, and establishment of a cross-divisional retention committee, all undertaken in academic year 2024-2025.
- success in stabilizing total undergraduate enrollment that increased to 4,268 in 2024 (from 3,839 in 2023).

- continued expansion of its graduate programs with the launch of online asynchronous programs in Spring 2024, supported by investments in marketing, modernization of outreach efforts, and partnerships. An additional 100 new students enrolled between Spring 2024 and Spring 2025.

The Commission asks the institution for an update on the following areas identified for development in the self-study prepared in advance of the Fall 2030 comprehensive evaluation:

1. **Evidence of incorporating the results of the institution's assessment and evaluation efforts in its planning and resource allocation (*Planning and Evaluation, Statement of the Standard; 2.2, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 7.4, 7.14, Educational Effectiveness, Statement of the Standard; 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.10*).** As ECSU candidly acknowledged in its report, "results tracking" to date has produced "limited evidence that planning and resource allocation decisions were guided by the Strategic Plan." Therefore, the identified need for the University to develop "better systems and processes for tracking, recording, and communicating institutional decision-making" will require the institution's sustained attention over time.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the interim report prepared by ECSU and hopes its preparation has contributed to institutional improvement. It appreciates your cooperation in the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education.

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 Marty Guay and Dr. John Maduko. The institution is free to release information about the evaluation and the Commission's action to others, in accordance with the attached policy on Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions.

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

Sincerely,



Michael Whelan
Commission Chair

MW/mrc

cc: Marty Guay, Board Chair; marty.guay@sbdinc.com
Dr. John Maduko, Interim Chancellor; john.maduko@ct.edu

Attachment: Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions