



Office of the Dean of Research and Graduate Studies

May 10, 2013

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to share important information concerning a recent decision made by the Office of Accreditation of the American Library Association ("ALA") with respect to our Graduate School of Library and Information Studies ("GSLIS") program at Queens College. On April 13, 2013, the ALA voted to withdraw accreditation from the GSLIS program leading to the degree of Master of Library Science ("MLS") at Queens College. We vigorously object to this decision which we believe is both without basis and improper. We have filed an appeal that we believe is very strong, and are hopeful that the determination will be reversed. Pending the outcome of that appeal, however, we must take proper precautionary steps and follow the ALA's guidelines.

When the COA withdraws accreditation from a program, any student who is enrolled in the program before the withdrawal of accreditation and who completes the degree requirements within twenty-four months after the withdrawal date is considered to have graduated from an ALA-accredited program. See ALA Accreditation Process, Policies, and Procedures (AP3), Section I.14.3, Student Status following withdrawal.

We will continue to offer our program and classes, and will devote all necessary resources to maintain the highest level of service, so that our current students may complete their studies within the next 24 months and graduate with an MLS from an accredited institution. Pending the resolution of our appeal, however, we will not admit students for the coming Fall 2013 semester.

This will have short term, and potentially long term, implications with respect to staffing. We will continue to employ adjunct faculty. However, the schedule and frequency of the courses taught in the next two years is likely to change so that we may accommodate those students who wish to complete their course of study within the next two years. Therefore, any appointments are, as always, subject to all conditions of employment and the sufficiency of registration and changes in curriculum which we will communicate to you.

The faculty of the GSLIS program along with the administration of Queens College and CUNY as a whole remain committed to this excellent program that, for decades, has successfully provided (and as the ALA has acknowledged, continues to provide) access and quality instruction and career opportunities to thousands of diverse students and practitioners in the New York metropolitan area. We are pursuing all appropriate avenues to gain reinstatement of accreditation for the program and assure you of our continued commitment to the program.

We appreciate that this is unsettling, and thank you for your continued support of the program. We will keep you informed.

Sincerely,

The signature of Richard J. Bodnar, PhD, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies.

Richard J. Bodnar, PhD
Dean of Research and Graduate Studies

The signature of Roberta Brody, PhD, Professor and Chair, GSLIS.

Roberta Brody, PhD
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