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February 9, 2010

Ms. Nina Shea
Director, Center for Religious Freedom
Hudson Institute
1015 15th Street, NW, Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Nina,

As you know, the Islamic Saudi Academy, Alexandria, VA, is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). Upon review of material provided by the Islamic Saudi Academy and other agencies, SACS CASI, and its parent organization, AdvancED, identified the following areas of concern about the school: course material, course curriculum in compliance with standards and non-discrimination policies, teacher qualifications, governance issues, and community and stakeholder involvement. Specifically, the institution appeared to be in violation of the following AdvancED Accreditation Standards:

- Standard 1: Vision and Purpose
- Standard 2: Governance and Leadership
- Standard 3: Teaching and Learning
- Standard 6: Stakeholder Communication and Relationships
- Standard 7: Commitment to Continuous Improvement

In December 2009, AdvancED sent a Special Review Team to the Islamic Saudi Academy. The results of that report include four required actions for the school to continue to meet the requirements of AdvancED accreditation:

- Implement a process to establish the vision and mission of the school that includes the active engagement of internal and external stakeholders. Additionally, enact formal and consistent steps to communicate the vision and mission of the school to the greater community of business, political, and community leaders.
- Evaluate the Islamic Studies curriculum as part of a complete curriculum audit to ensure that it is comprehensive and rigorous as well as consistent with AdvancED Standards. As with other program areas of the school, curriculum should be in a written format and placed on a regular schedule for review and revision. Clear expectations for student learning should be defined and the curriculum should be designed to meet the needs of all students.

The accreditation divisions of AdvancED are

North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI)
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI)

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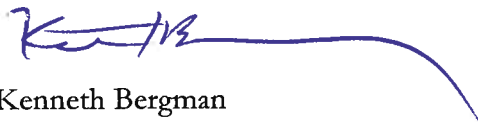
- Ensure that the school governance and leadership team be actively involved in the accreditation process. Additionally, it is required that the Director General and the full Board of Directors meet with the Quality Assurance Review Team during its visit in 2011.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive school improvement planning process to establish a school improvement plan focused on student learning that is supported by stated goals, interventions, measures, and action steps which clearly outline expectations. The school must demonstrate the use of data to inform the process.

The Islamic Saudi Academy is scheduled to host its next visit in the spring of 2011 and must address these required actions prior to that visit.

AdvancED is a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to continuous school improvement. Accreditation is a voluntary, collegial process focused on helping institutions improve through a systematic program of internal and external evaluation. Our process assures that an institution not only meets quality standards, but also that it demonstrates a continuous commitment to providing quality education programs that are aimed at improving student learning and performance.

I am including a copy of the complete report and would be glad to answer any questions you might have. I can be reached at kbergman@advanc-ed.org or 888.413.3669, ext. 5549.

Best Regards,



Kenneth Bergman
General Counsel
AdvancED