

**APPROVED**  
**June 14, 2023**

 Dave Kelm  
General Counsel

Item #G-4  
June 14, 2023

**POTENTIAL BOARD EXTENSION OF ACCREDITATION TIMELINE  
REQUIRED FOR OPERATING AND DEGREE GRANTING AUTHORITY  
OF AN INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION**

**Submitted for:**

Action.

**Summary:**

This item recommends that Quiroga College be granted approval to extend the five-year timeline for obtaining institutional accreditation as required in its authority to operate as a new institution from June 5, 2023, to June 30, 2025. Quiroga College is seeking institutional accreditation from the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges.

**Action Requested:**

That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the institution's request for an extension in the timeline to seek institutional accreditation from the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**POTENTIAL BOARD EXTENSION OF ACCREDITATION TIMELINE REQUIRED FOR  
OPERATING AND DEGREE GRANTING AUTHORITY OF AN INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) has responsibility for administration of The Private College Act (110 ILCS 1005) and The Academic Degree Act (110 ILCS 1010). Under these statutes, new independent institutions, institutions planning to operate at a new location, including a location outside the higher education region of original operating authority, and out-of-state institutions planning to operate in Illinois for the first time are required to obtain authorization to operate. These institutions are also required to obtain authorization for each new degree program.

In authorizing institutions to operate and grant degrees, the Board stipulates that approval is subject to maintenance of the conditions that were presented by the institution in its application and formed the basis upon which the specific authorizations were granted. The failure of an institution to maintain conditions of approval or conditions substantially equivalent to the conditions of approval, including failure to obtain accreditation from an accrediting authority recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation within five years, for a new institution, constitutes grounds for revocation of authorizations as defined in Sections 1030.30, 1030.70, and 1030.80 of the rules to administer the statutes. Any new institution that fails to obtain accreditation within five years after the date of Board approval, must request and receive a Board waiver of the original timeline (Section 1030.30 (a) (16)).

**Executive Summary**

Quiroga College is seeking an extension of the timeline for obtaining institutional accreditation from an accrediting authority recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as required by 23 Illinois Administrative Code 1030.30(a)(16). Quiroga College is a private, not-for-profit institution affiliated with the Universidad Vasco de Quiroga (UVAQ) in the city of Morelia, Mexico. UVAQ is a private Catholic university in Mexico accredited by the Mexican Federation of Private Institutions of Higher Education, the principal accreditation agency in Mexico. Quiroga College is seeking institutional accreditation from the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges and requests an extension of the five-year timeline for obtaining institutional accreditation as required in its authority to operate as a new institution from June 5, 2023, to June 30, 2025.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolutions:

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants to Quiroga College the request to extend the timeline for obtaining institutional accreditation as required within five years of approval to operate granted to new institutions, subject to the institution's attainment of accreditation with the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges by June 30, 2025.*

**Quiroga College**  
**2114 West 22nd Place**  
**Chicago, Illinois 60608**  
**Executive Director: Ms. Gloria Quiroz**

**Seeking Extension in the Timeline for Accreditation:** Chicago Region

## **Background and History**

Quiroga College (Quiroga or the College) is seeking an extension of the timeline for obtaining institutional accreditation from an accrediting authority recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as required by 23 *Illinois Administrative Code* 1030.30(a)(16). This portion of the administrative rules for private colleges and universities requires institutions to seek and obtain accreditation within five years of IBHE approval to operate “unless the Board waives the original timeline because it is found to be an unrealistic expectation.” The following sections outline the College’s history of operations in Illinois and form the basis of the recommendation to extend the timeline for achieving accreditation with the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges by June 30, 2025.

Quiroga College is a private, not-for-profit institution affiliated with the Universidad Vasco de Quiroga (UVAQ) in the city of Morelia, Mexico. UVAQ is a private Catholic university in Mexico accredited by the Mexican Federation of Private Institutions of Higher Education, the principal accreditation agency in Mexico. Founded by UVAQ, Quiroga College is organized as an independent, board-governed, US-based institution of higher education. The College affirms an institutional affiliation with UVAQ and a shared commitment to the Catholic theological, sociological, philosophical, and educational underpinnings set forth in the Quiroga Statement of Religious and Educational Philosophy shared with UVAQ. Quiroga was originally approved by the Board to operate in the Chicago region on June 6, 2015; however, the College relinquished its authority on September 15, 2017, to further develop its plans for accreditation. A subsequent application for operating authority was approved by the IBHE on June 5, 2018. The College also received approval for an Associate in Applied Arts in Culinary Arts, Associate in Applied Arts in Family and Early Childhood Education, and Associate in Applied Arts in Business on August 2, 2018.

## **Accreditation**

*1030.30(a)(16): New institutions without accreditation from an accrediting authority recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation shall provide a clearly defined plan to move from candidate to affiliate status. The plan should include the name of the accrediting organization, the basic outline of the accreditation process, and the projected timeline for obtaining affiliate status within five years after the date of Board approval, unless the Board waives the original timeline because it is found to be an unrealistic expectation.*

After the Board approvals granting Quiroga College authority to operate and grant degrees, IBHE staff have stayed in communication with the College administrators about Quiroga’s progress toward seeking institutional accreditation. In its original application to IBHE, Quiroga provided a detailed timeline for seeking accreditation with the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) and with a plan to attain by 2023. The College also indicated plans

to initiate the process for obtaining accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) by 2022. In a response to technical questions dated August 29, 2020, requesting an update on accreditation, Quiroga provided that they began the formal process for accreditation with ACCSC in May 2019 and plan to obtain accreditation by the third quarter of 2021. However, due to the pandemic, the accreditation process was delayed, causing the College to seek an extension.

On May 1, 2023, Quiroga College submitted a formal request for an extension of the timeline for obtaining accreditation, which highlights progress made and a detailed timeline for obtaining accreditation by June 2025. As provided in the notification letter to IBHE, the College received the ACCSC Orientation Evaluation Report on April 12, 2023. The ACCSC report appended with the notification letter to IBHE also provides that a revised Initial Accreditation Application – II (revised application) and the Self-Evaluation Report are due to the accrediting body by May 30, 2023. Quiroga has submitted these documents to the ACCSC timely. The ACCSC evaluation report also provides the next steps in the application process, submission requirements, as well as a detailed timeline for submitting the required documentation.

## **Facilities**

Quiroga College has adequate facilities to continue to administer their programs. Quiroga is housed in a building with 11 classrooms, four administrative rooms, and ten rooms for multi-purpose use. The facility is in compliance with all appropriate local, state, and federal ordinances and laws for use as an educational facility, including the Americans with Disabilities Act. The library is well-equipped with instructional materials, with access to over 30,000 digital books and 5,000 periodicals on different subjects. Students and faculty have access to several electronic databases. Furthermore, Quiroga has established a partnership with the Chicago Public Library and through this agreement, students have access to Chicago's public libraries' substantial holdings of books, periodicals, historical records, and substantial online resources.

## **Finances**

*1030.30 (a)(11): The institution should be financially stable and capable of assuring the revenues needed for meeting stated objectives and fulfilling commitments to students.*

In addition to the letter of extension, Quiroga College also submitted an audited financial statement to IBHE per staff request. Quiroga College submitted an audited financial statement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, and 2020. The College's net revenue for the financial year ending June 30, 2021, and 2020 were approximately \$162,772 and \$160,551, with total net assets of negative \$2,305,202 and \$1,964,363 respectively. The total change net asset was negative \$340,839 and \$320,132 for 2021 and 2020 respectively. The audit report noted a change in the treatment of the loan by a related party, UVAQ, which would address the deficit in the net asset for fiscal year ending 2022. According to Note H of the audit report, "UVAQ and the College have agreed to change the terms of the loan agreement and convert the entire loan balance to a contribution, effective December 31, 2021. UVAQ's decision will result in additional revenue of approximately \$2.6 million in Fiscal Year 2022 and eliminate the net asset deficit." As a response to the concern about the negative net asset, Quiroga College is required to provide IBHE with an audited financial statement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. Quiroga will also be required to provide IBHE with updates on any potential transaction or changes in its operation that may impact their finances.

### **Staff Conclusion**

The staff recommends that Quiroga College be granted approval to extend the timeline for obtaining institutional accreditation as required within five years of approval to operate granted to new institutions, subject to the institution's compliance with attaining accreditation with the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges by June 30, 2025.