

# HOWARD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 24, 2018

Ellie A. Fogarty, Ed.D.  
Vice-President  
Middle States Commission on Higher Education  
3624 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680

Dear Dr. Fogarty,

I am writing in response to your April 2, 2018, correspondence concerning media coverage related to inappropriate actions taken by former Howard University Financial Aid employees. As requested, this cover letter and attached materials is being submitted in response to the request that the University provide Middle States Commission on Higher Education (“MSCHE”) a supplemental information report (“SIR”) addressing recent developments and actions planned or taken by the University to ensure ongoing compliance with Standard II (Ethics and Integrity), Standard IV (Support of the Student Experience, and Standard VII (Governance, Leadership, and Administration).

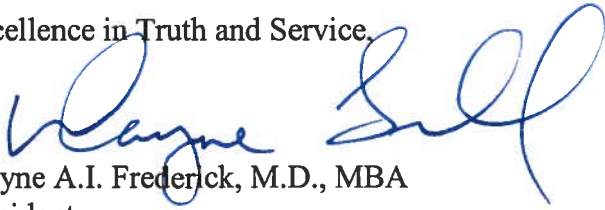
To that end, I have enclosed the Howard University Preliminary Investigation Report. As described in the report, the University’s initial investigation uncovered problematic practices in the awarding of certain Howard University-provided financial aid grants. In response to this discovery, the University, through its leadership including myself, took immediate steps to initiate an investigation into this matter and is continuing to investigate this matter. These grants represented discounts and were not donor-funded or federal funds. The report sets forth the events underlying the University’s decision to terminate six University employees for their misconduct related to this matter. The report also identifies additional steps that the University will be taking to improve our financial aid policies, processes, and procedures to ensure that issues like this do not arise again.

The University’s investigation is ongoing and includes a review of the University’s administration of Federal Student Aid to identify any noncompliance with applicable policies and procedures. In the summer of 2017, I personally reached out to the U.S. Department of Education about the issues the University discovered in its preliminary investigation and explained that the University is continuing to investigate the administration of financial aid. This on-going investigation is proceeding with all due speed, and we are cooperating with the U.S. Department of Education, which on April 4, 2018, commenced a program review of the University’s federal student financial aid administration. As the University’s investigation continues, there may be additional facts the University learns or needs to confirm that will inform the next steps in the investigation.



Howard University is committed to uncovering any impropriety in the administration of University-provided financial aid and Federal Student Aid, to remediating all problems identified during this investigation, and to maintaining a robust compliance program to prevent any inappropriate dealings in the administration of financial aid. It is my sincere belief that Howard will be an even stronger University because of the financial aid reforms we have implemented and will continue to implement. In service to our University community, I look forward to continuing to work with and on behalf of our students and our entire community.

Excellence in Truth and Service.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wayne A.I. Frederick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "F".

Wayne A.I. Frederick, M.D., MBA  
President