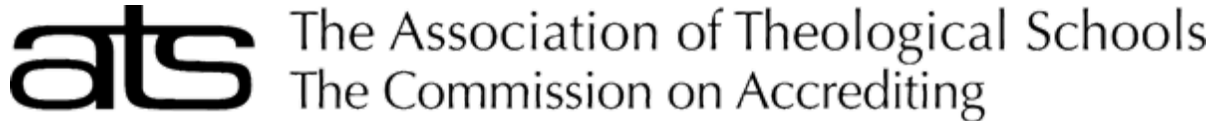


From: [ATS Accrediting](#)
To: president@hau.edu; Valerie Rempel
Cc: dahn125@gmail.com; accreditation@hau.edu
Subject: [COAATS] Action Letter, February 2023
Date: Friday, February 3, 2023 1:47:09 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)



February 3, 2023

ATTN: Inho Jung
Henry Appenzeller University
1325 N College Ave
Claremont, CA 91711-3199
via email only

Dear President Jung,

The Board of Commissioners met in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on January 30-31, 2023, and included on its agenda Henry Appenzeller University's comprehensive visit for initial accreditation, the resulting report by the evaluation committee, and the school's response.

After reviewing the information in light of the pertinent Commission [Standards](#) and [Policies and Procedures](#), the Board voted:

1. To *deny* initial accreditation. When the school has addressed the following rationales for denial, the Board invites them to reapply for initial accreditation.
Rationale for denial:
 - a. The school's current library holdings are insufficient to support student research and the requirements of the various degree programs. Without functioning agreements with other theological libraries and further acquisitions, students (face-to-face and online) do not have sufficient access to appropriate resources (see Standards 6.7-10).
 - b. The school's financial resources and current patterns of operation appear insufficient to sustain the school's mission long-term. This is demonstrated by three consecutive years of declining assets in which spending has outpaced revenue, and the absence of a realistic plan to address the weakening financial situation (see Standards 2.1-4, 10.3).
2. To affirm these distinctive strengths:
 - a. A clearly articulated understanding of unique identity and mission embraced throughout faculty and staff and lived out in sacrificial service to the school and church.
 - b. A strong relationship with the Korean Methodist Church in South Korea (KMC) and America (KMCA) that offers potential for growth, especially as HAU is the only KMCA school offering an MDiv for the denomination's approximately 270 congregations throughout North and Central America, and the school's emerging vision for serving the Korean diaspora around the world.
 - c. The care of first generation Korean American leaders to build an institutional foundation through attention to policies and procedures, handbooks, and shared governance practices so that the second generation and beyond might flourish.
 - d. A commitment to institutional and educational effectiveness demonstrated in a strong initial plan of assessment aimed at a wide range of stakeholders.
3. To highlight the following issues needing special attention:

- a. Continued attention to navigating the inevitable transitions related to culture, language and shifting realities in the supporting denomination (see Standards 2.1-2).
- b. Attending to the need for a sustainable financial model that helps the school achieve its mission. The school will need to provide evidence of a strategic planning process that identifies priorities, with special attention to enrollment; aligns stated goals with realistic budget projections; and establishes benchmarks with the aim of long-term financial sustainability (see Standards 2.1-4, 10.1, 10.3).
- c. Enriching the existing assessment plan to include the systematic gathering of direct measures (performance-based) to add to the rich array of indirect measures (perception-based) with evidence of regular analysis of findings for each degree program, to demonstrate how the school's practices of data collection and analysis are shaping student learning (see Standard 2.6).
- d. The necessary building of the library's capacity and especially student access to resources, through new acquisitions and agreements with other theological libraries, to support student research and the requirements of the various degree programs (see Standards 6.7-10).

NOTE: Actions #2 & #3 (above) are effective **January 31, 2023**; action #1 (above) is effective **February 17, 2023**—thereby allowing sufficient time from the receipt of this notification for any initial request for an appeal (see ATS Commission [Policies and Procedures](#), VII.A and VIII.B). As stated in VIII.B.1, "An appeal involves a formal request from the school to the Board to convene the Appeals Panel (see VIII.B.3-4) to reconsider the Board's decision to deny [see II.B] or withdraw [see. III.J] accreditation. The school must state its reasons for making an appeal and provide documentation supporting that appeal (see VIII.B.2). The school has two weeks from the time it was notified of the action to submit an official letter of appeal (signed by the school's chief executive officer or designee) and two more weeks to submit specific documentation supporting its appeal." Any letter of initial request for an appeal is to be addressed to the Board of Commissioners and submitted in care of the Accrediting Records Coordinator (accrediting@ats.edu).

Please contact me directly at rempel@ats.edu with any questions.

Sincerely,

Valerie Rempel
Director of Accreditation

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