

RECEIVED
PRESIDENT/PROVOST OFFICE

8060 165th Avenue N.E., Suite 100

Redmond, WA 98052-3981

425 558 4224

Fax: 425 376 0596

www.nwccu.org



JUL 13 2017

Western Washington University

July 10, 2017

Dr. Sabah U. Randhawa
President
Western Washington University
516 High Street, MS 9033
Bellingham, WA 98225-9033

Dear President Randhawa: 

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Western Washington University has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Spring 2017 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation which was expanded to address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Spring 2014 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report as indicated in correspondence dated July 28, 2014. Congratulations on receiving this continued recognition.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission determined that its expectations regarding Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Spring 2014 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report have been fulfilled. The Commission requests that the University submit an Ad Hoc Report with a visit in fall 2018 to address Recommendation 4 of the Spring 2017 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. Further, the Commission requests that the University submit an addendum to its Spring 2020 Mid-Cycle Report to address Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 of the Spring 2017 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. As a reminder, the University is also to submit its *Mission and Core Themes* Report in spring 2018. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In taking these actions, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 of the Spring 2017 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Western Washington University is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement.

However, the Commission determined that Recommendation 4 of the Spring 2017 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report does not meet the Commission's criteria for accreditation. According to U.S. Department of Education Regulation 34 CFR 602.20 and Commission Policy, *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period* (enclosed), the Commission requires that Western Washington University take appropriate action to ensure that Recommendation 4 of the Spring 2017 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report is addressed and resolved in the prescribed two-year period.

The Commission commends Western Washington University for its commitment to undergraduate education with a strong liberal arts foundation and for the high level of faculty engagement in governance and decision-making processes. The Commission finds noteworthy the University's commitment to

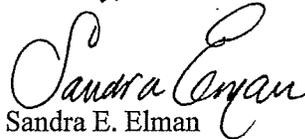
President Sabah U. Randhawa
Page Two
July 10, 2017

outreach into its communities through extended education and service learning. Moreover, the Commission applauds the Western Washington University Libraries for leading a strategic, campus-wide and data-driven process to engage library stakeholders in creating transparent guidelines and criteria to guide collection management and new resource acquisition. Finally, the Commission commends the Board of Trustees for its commitment to the institution and the intentionality and self-reflection it brings to its own work.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes for a rewarding 2017-2018 academic year.

Sincerely,


Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosures: Recommendations
Commission Policy, *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within
Specified Period*

cc: ✓ Dr. Steven L. VanderStaay, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Director of Academic
Assessment
Ms. Susan Sharpe, Board Chair

Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation
Spring 2017
Western Washington University
Recommendations

1. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution move forward and re-evaluate its current set of core theme objectives and indicators; the institution needs to identify meaningful, assessable, and verifiable indicators of achievement that form the basis for evaluating accomplishment of the objectives of its core themes (Standard 1.B.2).
2. The committee recommends that the institution establish mechanisms, capacity and expertise to provide and analyze verifiable, meaningful, and useful data that will support and inform University decision-making and assessment of desired outcomes (Standard 4.A.1).
3. The committee recommends that the institution analyze and better use its data in an integrated and intentional way to clearly show how well the University is achieving its mission and core themes, and to ensure that the information is clearly communicated to all pertinent stakeholders, including those involved in strategic planning resource allocation, institutional capacity, assessment, and other campus initiatives (Standard 5.A).
4. The committee recommends that the institution document and evaluate regularly its cycle of planning, practices, resource allocation, application of institutional capacity, and assessment of results to ensure their adequacy, alignment, and effectiveness, and finally, that the University uses the results of its evaluation to make changes, as necessary, for improvement (Standard 5.B.2).
5. The committee recommends that the institution reassess how well it is meeting student needs as it expands access to its educational programs and take corresponding actions for improvement (Standard 5.B.1).
6. The committee recommends that the institution update its Campus Master Plan (Standard 2.G.3).