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July 14, 2016

Dr. Rex Fuller  
President  
Western Oregon University  
345 Monmouth Avenue North  
Monmouth, OR 97361

Dear President Fuller: <sup>Rex</sup>

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Western Oregon University has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Spring 2016 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation which was also to address Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2013 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report. The Commission determined that its expectations regarding Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2013 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report still have not been met. As such, the areas of concern that were to be addressed in Recommendation 1 are included in Recommendations 2 and 3 of the Spring 2016 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report.

In reaffirming accreditation, however, the Commission issued a *Notice of Concern* (a private sanction) with regard to Recommendations 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 (Eligibility Requirements 22 and 23; Standards 1.A.2, 1.B.2, 2.C.1, 2.C.2, 2.C.4, 2.C.5, 2.C.10, 2.F.3, 3.A.1-4, 3.B.1-3, 4.A.1-6, 4.B.1-2, 5.A.1-2, and 5.B.1) of the Spring 2016 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. The Commission determined that Recommendations 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 of the Spring 2016 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Western Oregon University 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 Oregon University take appropriate action to ensure that Recommendations 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 of the Spring 2016 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report are addressed and resolved within the prescribed two-year period.

In addition, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1 and 5 of the Spring 2016 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report are areas substantially in compliance with the Commission's criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement.

Further, the Commission requests that the University address Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the Spring 2016 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report in its Spring 2017 Year One *Mission and Core Themes* Report. Moreover, the Commission requests that the University submit an Ad Hoc Report with a visit in fall 2017 to address Recommendations 4, 6, and 7 of the Spring 2016 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. Finally, the Commission requests that the University submit an addendum to its Spring 2019 Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation Report to address Recommendation 5 of the Spring 2016 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report.

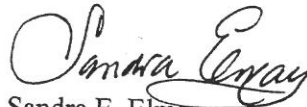
President Rex Fuller  
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The Commission commends Western Oregon University for its commitment to student access and success and for its commitment to first generation and low-income students. Similarly, the Commission lauds Western Oregon University's staff and faculty for their resiliency and ongoing commitment to students during transformative changes in governance. Lastly, the Commission finds noteworthy the University's commitment to facilities and grounds resulting in a campus that is accessible, welcoming, aesthetically pleasing, and reflects a commitment to environmental sustainability.

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

Best wishes for a rewarding 2016-2017 academic year.

Sincerely,



Sandra E. Elman  
President

SEE:rb

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

cc: Dr. Stephen Scheck, Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs ✓  
Mr. Jim Baumgarten, Chair, Board of Trustees  
Mr. Ben Cannon, Executive Director, Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission

**Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation**  
**Spring 2016**  
**Western Oregon University**  
**Recommendations**

1. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution clarify its mission statement to provide better direction for mission fulfillment (Standard 1.A.1).
2. As noted in Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2013 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report, the evaluation committee recommends that the institution define mission fulfillment including identifying outcomes that represent the extent of the institution's accomplishment of mission fulfillment (Eligibility Requirements 22 and 23; Standard 1.A.2).
3. As noted in Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2013 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report, the evaluation committee recommends that the institution establish objectives for each core theme and identify meaningful, assessable, and verifiable direct and indirect measures (indicators) of achievement that form the basis for evaluating accomplishment of the objectives of the core themes [Eligibility Requirement 23 and Standard 1.B.2).
4. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution establish student learning outcomes for all courses, programs, and degrees, including general education, wherever offered and however delivered, that are meaningful, assessable, and verifiable and are consistent with the mission (Eligibility Requirement 22; Standard 2.C.1, 2.C.2, 2.C.4, 2.C.5, and 2.C.10).
5. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution provide appropriate and adequate technology systems and infrastructure planning with input from constituencies to support its management and operational functions, academic programs, and support services, wherever offered and however delivered (Standard 2.G.5 and 2.G.7).
6. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution design and implement an ongoing planning and budgeting process that is broad-based, inclusive of all appropriate constituencies, data-driven, includes core theme planning, and leads to mission fulfillment (Eligibility Requirement 23; Standards 2.F.3, 3.A.1-4, and 3.B.1-3).
7. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution engage in comprehensive, on-going, systematic assessment that leads to mission fulfillment through the evaluation of core theme objectives and support of continuous improvement (Eligibility Requirement 23; Standards 4.A.1-6, 4.B.1-2, 5.A.1-2, and 5.B.1).

## *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period Policy*

If the Commission determines that an institution it accredits is not in compliance with a Commission standard for accreditation or an eligibility requirement, the Commission will immediately initiate adverse action against the institution or require the institution to take appropriate action to bring itself into compliance within a time period that shall not exceed: (1) twelve months, if the longest program offered by the institution is less than one year in length; (2) eighteen months, if the longest program offered by the institution is at least one year, but less than two years, in length; or (3) two years, if the longest program offered by the institution is at least two years in length.

The Commission may extend the period for compliance noted above should it reasonably expect that, based upon the institution's progress toward meeting the Commission's standard for accreditation or eligibility requirement, the institution will come into full compliance within a reasonable timeframe. Should an institution deem that as a result of mitigating circumstances it is not able to comply with the standard for accreditation or eligibility requirement within the specified period of time, the institution may submit a written request to the Commission for additional time to come into compliance with the standard for accreditation or eligibility requirement. The request is to be submitted prior to the time limit for corrective action set forth by the Commission, provide a detailed explanation of the reasons why the institution cannot comply with the standard for accreditation within the designated time period, and demonstrate that the institution is making good progress in meeting the standard for accreditation. Following a review of the request, the Commission will make a determination as to whether the institution has based its request on valid reasons. If the Commission determines that the institution has substantiated good cause for not complying within the specified time period and is making good progress to come into compliance, the Commission will extend the period for achieving compliance and stipulate requirements for continuing oversight of the institution's accreditation during the extension.

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