



8060 165th Avenue N.E., Suite 100
Redmond, WA 98052-3981
425 558 4224
Fax: 425 376 0596
www.nwccu.org

July 30, 2014

Dr. Richard Storey
Chancellor
The University of Montana – Western
710 South Atlantic
Dillon, MT 59725-3598

Dear Chancellor Storey:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to inform you that at its June 25-26, 2014, meeting, the Board of Commissioners accepted The University of Montana – Western's Ad Hoc Report which was to address Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2013 Year Three *Resources and Capacity* Peer-Evaluation Report, Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2011 Year One *Mission and Core Themes* Peer-Evaluation Report, and Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the Spring 2010 Comprehensive Evaluation Report. This report was the subject of Commission correspondence dated July 24, 2013.

In taking these actions the Commission determined that with regard to Recommendations 1 and 3 of the Spring 2010 Comprehensive Evaluation Report, Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2011 Year One *Mission and Core Themes* Peer-Evaluation Report, and Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2013 Year Three *Resources and Capacity* Peer-Evaluation Report, its expectations have been met. The Commission also determined that with regard to Recommendation 2 of the Spring 2010 Comprehensive Evaluation Report, the University is now substantially in compliance with the Commission's criteria for accreditation but improvement is still needed.

In accepting the report, the Commission requests that the University submit an Ad Hoc Report in Fall 2015 to address Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2014 Ad Hoc Evaluation. Recommendation 1 addresses a longstanding issue regarding outcomes assessment. Recommendation 1 reads as follows:

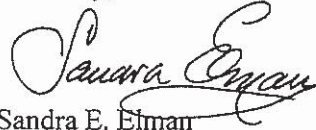
The Commission does not find evidence that the commitment to assessment has been embraced throughout the curriculum. It is therefore recommended that the institution take immediate steps to implement frequent, regular and substantive assessment of learning outcomes in all academic programs. Furthermore, it is recommended that the assessment process explicitly connect student learning outcomes to program mission, the institution's strategic plan, the budget process and the University mission (Standards 2.C.2; 2.C.5; 4.A.2; and 4.A.3).

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

Chancellor Richard Storey
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Best wishes for a rewarding academic year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra E. Elman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a long, sweeping underline.

Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosure: Recommendation

✓cc: Ms. Anneliese Ripley, Interim Assistant Provost

Ad Hoc Evaluation
Spring 2014
The University of Montana - Western
Recommendation

1. The Commission does not find evidence that the commitment to assessment has been embraced throughout the curriculum. It is therefore recommended that the institution take immediate steps to implement frequent, regular and substantive assessment of learning outcomes in all academic programs. Furthermore, it is recommended that the assessment process explicitly connect student learning outcomes to program mission, the institution's strategic plan, the budget process and the University mission (Standards 2.C.2; 2.C.5; 4.A.2; and 4.A.3).