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July 27, 2009

Dr. Elson D. Floyd  
President  
Washington State University  
P.O. Box 641048  
Pullman, WA 99164-1048

Dear President ~~Floyd~~<sup>Elson</sup>:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Washington State University has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Spring 2009 Comprehensive Evaluation. Congratulations on receiving this continued recognition.

The policy of the Commission is not to grant accreditation for a definite number of years. Instead, accreditation must be reaffirmed periodically. Each institution is required to conduct a self-study and be visited by a full evaluation committee at least once every ten years, and during the fifth year, the University is to submit an interim report and be visited by one or more Commission representatives. In the case of Washington State University, the Commission amended the comprehensive evaluation report to include two additional Recommendations and requests that the institution submit a progress report in fall 2010 to address Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the Spring 2009 Comprehensive Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the Spring 2009 Comprehensive Evaluation Report are areas where Washington State University is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement. The two additional Recommendations follow below.

Recommendation 2 states that the implementation of the educational assessment plan remains inconsistent across the University despite promising starts and a number of exemplary successes in selected programs. The Commission therefore recommends that the University continue to enhance and strengthen its assessment process. This process needs to be extended to all of the University's educational programs, including graduate programs, and programs offered at the branch campuses (Standard 2.B).

Recommendation 3 states that Washington State University has embarked upon an aggressive strategy of institutional transformation and change. This is reflected, for example, in a significantly greater emphasis on research and graduate education, a restructured general education program, a comprehensive review that is leading to the elimination and/or enhancement of academic programs, and the creation of a new University College. In this context of substantive change, the Commission recommends that the University administration and its governing board pay particular attention to expectations that the process be participatory, respecting the views of all stakeholder groups in matters where they have direct and reasonable interest in order to sustain a structure that ensures the long-term stability and integrity of the institution (Standards 1.B.3, 6.A.3).

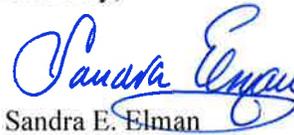
President Elson D. Floyd  
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In the unlikely event the Commission should conclude that an institution is in danger of being unable to fulfill its mission and goals or to continue to meet the Eligibility Requirements, Standards or related Policies for accreditation, the Commission reserves the right to request that the institution receive an evaluation committee for a special review.

We will write again in spring 2010 regarding the Fall 2010 Progress Report.

Best wishes for a rewarding year.

Sincerely,



Sandra E. Elman  
President

SEE:rb

Enclosures: Recommendations

cc: Dr. Jane C. Sherman, Vice Provost for Academic Policy and Evaluation  
Mr. Michael C. Worthy, Board Chair

**Comprehensive Evaluation Report**  
**Spring 2009**  
**Washington State University**  
**Recommendations**

1. The Committee recommends that Washington State University provide contemporary enterprise information management systems that will address the needs of the future for its student, academic, and management support requirements (Standards 3.C.5, 5.C.1, 7.C.2, 8.B.1).
2. Implementation of the educational assessment plan remains inconsistent across the University, despite promising starts and a number of exemplary successes in selected programs. The Commission recommends that the University continue to enhance and strengthen its assessment process. This process needs to be extended to all of the University's educational programs, including graduate programs, and programs offered at the branch campuses (Standard 2.B).
3. Washington State University has embarked upon an aggressive strategy of institutional transformation and change. This is reflected, for example, in a significantly greater emphasis on research and graduate education, a restructured general education program, a comprehensive review that is leading to the elimination and/or enhancement of academic programs, and the creation of a new University College. In this context of substantive change, the Commission recommends that the University administration and its governing board pay particular attention to expectations that the process be participatory, respecting the views of all stakeholder groups in matters where they have direct and reasonable interest in order to sustain a structure that ensures the long-term stability and integrity of the institution (Standards 1.B.3, 6.A.3).