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July 31, 2009

Dr. Richard Lariviere
President
University of Oregon
1226 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1226

Dear President Lariviere:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of the University of Oregon has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Spring 2009 Focused Interim Evaluation which addressed Recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Spring 2007 Comprehensive Evaluation Report and was expanded to address Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2007 Comprehensive Evaluation Report. This matter was the subject of Commission correspondence dated July 31, 2007 and February 10, 2009. Congratulations on receiving this continued recognition. The Commission commends the University for its diligence in addressing these matters.

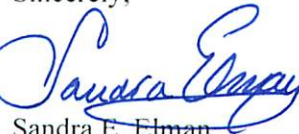
The Commission requests that the institution submit a progress report in spring 2010 to again address Recommendations 1 and 7 of the Spring 2007 Comprehensive Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

The Commission finds that Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2007 Comprehensive Evaluation Report is an area where the University of Oregon now substantially meets the Commission's criteria for accreditation, but needs improvement.

We will write again in fall 2009 regarding the Spring 2010 Progress Report.

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

Best wishes for a rewarding year.

Sincerely,

Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosure: Recommendations

cc: Dr. David R. Hubin, Executive Assistant President
Mr. Paul J. Kelly, Jr., Board Chair

AUG 07 2009

**Comprehensive Evaluation Report
Spring 2007
University of Oregon**

Recommendations

1. Commission Policy 2.2 *Educational Assessment* requires that institutions develop and maintain an assessment plan that is responsive to their mission and needs. Apart from externally mandated programmatic assessment for some specialized programs, the University has not developed a plan or strategy systematically to assess student learning across the campus. However, the new provost and her managerial team are aware of this need and are committed to the implementation of systematic assessment on the Eugene campus and wherever the institution offers academic programming. The Committee recommends that the University of Oregon develop and implement an assessment plan in accordance with Policy 2.2 *Educational Assessment* as quickly as feasible.
2. The University of Oregon has taken several essential steps to generate alternative sources of revenue to help maintain its instructional and research quality at the AAU level, including increasing its external research support, attracting private funds, and increasing its proportion of out-of-state students. But it must identify its particular strengths and the ways it will continue to serve the state. The Committee recommends that the University of Oregon undertake an academic planning process to identify what research, instructional and state services areas it will be known for in the future and use that process to concentrate its capital and operating resource allocation decisions (Standard 1.B).
3. The University of Oregon prides itself on its status as an AAU institution. However, with the expectations for research, concern is expressed that the University may not have funds for needed laboratory and research space; therefore, the Committee recommends that the University take the necessary steps to ensure that facilities are planned and resources identified to support essential continued research growth (Standards 4.B.4; 8.A.2; 8.A.3; 8.A.6).
4. Standard 8.C *Physical Resources Planning* requires that the institution plan for and identify resources for remedying deferred maintenance. However, the evidence suggests that the level of deferred maintenance at the University of Oregon is high and that necessary building renovations are problematic given the unavailability of resources to address the needs of the physical plant. The Committee recommends that the University undertake a planning process that addresses the physical plant of the institution and that the process include constituencies from across campus to develop a building renewal agenda (Standard 8.C).
5. Commission criteria assume that there will be a commonly understood and uniformly employed set of institutional policies, rules, practices, and procedures that are employed at every level of administration. These policies should foster open communication and goal attainment. However, the Committee is concerned that the University of Oregon does not currently have these operational policies in place and that campus based decision-making procedures appear to be idiosyncratic and not uniformly applied. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the University of Oregon take steps to enhance internal communication and to review its operating policies in regard to Standard 6, *Governance and Administration*; Standard 4.A, *Faculty Selection, Evaluation, Roles, Welfare and Development* and Standard 7.C, *Financial Management*.

6. Commission criteria state that faculty workloads reflect the mission and goals of the institution. Student enrollment at the institution is at a record high but the institution has not responded with any concomitant increase in instructional resources, particularly full-time, tenure track faculty. The faculty is concerned at the prospect of growing enrollments and greater use of non-tenure instructional faculty while some students report limited access to faculty as a hindrance to their education. The Committee recommends that the institution should more closely monitor faculty teaching obligations and provide greater instructional resources to facilitate student learning (Standard 4.A.3).
7. Despite the extensive use of interlibrary loan, Standard 5 requires a core collection adequate in quality, depth, diversity and currency to support graduate curricula and research in a number of programs. The Committee recommends that the University take steps to address the sufficiency of core library holdings needed to support the institution's instructional and research missions (Standard 5.A.1; 5.A.2).
8. Commission Policy A-2 *Substantive Change* mandates that major substantive change proposals be submitted to the Commission for review and approval prior to implementation. The Committee recommends that the University work closely with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities regarding its intention to expand off-campus academic offerings in Portland and elsewhere (Policy A-2).