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January 29, 2016

Dr. David W. Pershing  
President  
University of Utah  
201 South President's Circle  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Dear President Pershing: *David*

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of the University of Utah has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Fall 2015 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation which was expanded to address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2012 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report. The Commission determined that its expectations regarding Recommendation 1 of the Fall 2012 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report have still not been met and therefore it is continued as Recommendation 3 of the Fall 2015 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. With regard to Recommendation 2 of the Fall 2012 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report, the Commission determined that its expectations have been met.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission revised Recommendation 2 of the Fall 2015 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report to insert the word "additional." Recommendation 2 now reads as follows:

2. The evaluation committee recommends that the University of Utah allocate additional financial resources for measurable, direct student learning outcomes (Standard 2.C.1 and 2.C.2).

The Commission requests that the University submit its Year One *Mission and Core Themes* Report in Fall 2016 and that the University submit an addendum to this Year One Report to address Recommendation 1 of the Fall 2015 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. The Commission further requests that the University submit an addendum to its Fall 2018 Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation Report to address revised Recommendation 2 (above) and Recommendation 3 of the Fall 2015 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In taking these actions, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the Fall 2015 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where the University of Utah is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement.

The Commission commends the University of Utah and its library staff for the development of an innovative, functional, and accommodating library that proactively provides faculty, students, and the community access to high quality knowledge and support. The Commission finds noteworthy the University's holistic admissions process which improves access to the University of Utah.

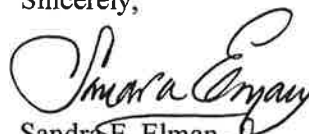
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Moreover, the Commission applauds the University for the work performed through its UOnline and CTLE units, particularly in assisting faculty members in course development and evaluation. Lastly, the Commission commends the University for making learning communities intrinsic to its essential function as a higher education institution and a place of student learning.

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

Best wishes for a peaceful and fulfilling New Year.

Sincerely,



Sandra E. Elman

President

SEE:rb

Enclosure: Recommendations

cc: Dr. Dave Kieda, Dean, The Graduate School ✓  
Ms. Michele Mattsson, Chair, Board of Trustees

**Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation**  
**Fall 2015**  
**University of Utah**  
**Recommendations**

1. The evaluation committee recommends that the University of Utah realign its mission with an integrated iteration of core themes and the “Four Big Goals”, especially in the context of assessable and verifiable student learning outcomes (Standard 1.A and 1.B).
2. The evaluation committee recommends that the University of Utah allocate additional financial resources for measurable, direct student learning outcomes (Standard 2.C.1 and 2.C.2).
3. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution continue to fully implement a student learning assessment plan that identifies quality standards for all programs. Student learning outcomes assessment should include direct measures of student learning. Additionally, the evaluation committee recommends that the institution use the results of its assessments for continuous improvement (Standard 4.A.1, 4.A.3, 4.A.4, 4.A.5, 4.A.6, 4.B.1, and 4.B.2).