

Commendations

The evaluators extend these commendations to the institution and staff:

1. The University's intent to utilize the process of Interim Review preparation to improve the functioning of the institution was very evident. It was extremely apparent in the University's Interim Study and was verified by the several interviews held on campus. The materials, including the obvious thought giving to their preparation and to the writing of the report, are reminiscent of the effort that generally is reserved for a Ten-Year Full-Scale Evaluation.
2. The institution is to be commended for its efforts at meeting the intent of the recommendations in light of the already-mentioned and significant changes in the executive ranks of administration.
3. The Division of Distance Education and distance delivered programs from the School of Arts and Sciences and School of Education and Business at Eastern Oregon University is an exemplary effort serving the needs of place and time bound learners in Eastern Oregon and beyond. As presented in the Interim Report, The Division of Distance Education is a "powerful and completely integrated part of the University."
4. Eastern Oregon University is engaged in reviewing and redefining its mission statement, and in reviewing and rewriting its strategic plan. The awareness of these issues and the related processes that the University is engaged in to address the issues is pervasive at all levels of the University community. EOU is commended for its efforts to communicate with the University community on these challenging issues and creating and environment that encourages the open discussion of these important institutional changes.
5. EOU is commended for its demonstrated courage to change through the development of new programs and the formation of collaborations and partnerships with other educational institutions to bring expanded program opportunities to the Eastern Oregon region

Recommendations

Based on the institution's interim report, other provided materials, and on staff/faculty interviews, the evaluators make the following recommendations:

1. Following the model of the General Education program, the academic program assessment efforts should continue with the goal of making them more universal. The assessment of learning outcomes should extend to include those courses and students served by the Division of Distance Education.
2. The University should prepare an interim report for the Commission addressing the impact of this year's collective bargaining outcomes on the Commission standards, particularly Standard 6, Policy 6.2.
3. The University should prepare an interim report for the Commission in response to Standard 5, Library and Information Resources. The evaluators include this recommendation for the consideration of the Commission, not because the Library was specifically evaluated by the Five-Year review, but because the reviewers had concerns based on factors determined during the visit that logically impact Library resources.

4. The institution still must deal with the issue of faculty overload teaching. The issue has been raised twice over the last five years and still no effective implementation has been achieved. Obviously, this is an area of concern that most likely will be influenced by the collective bargaining process and outcomes.