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February 5, 2014

Dr. Robert Davies
President
Eastern Oregon University
One University Blvd.
La Grande, OR 97850

Dear President Davies: ^{Bob}

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that at its January 8-9, 2014, meeting, the Board of Commissioners reaffirmed the accreditation of Eastern Oregon University on the basis of the Fall 2013 Year Three *Resources and Capacity* Evaluation which was expanded to address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report and to again address Recommendations 5 and 6 of the Fall 2008 Comprehensive Evaluation Report.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission added a fourth Recommendation to the Fall 2013 Year Three *Resources and Capacity* Peer-Evaluation Report. Recommendation 4 states:

4. Although the majority of EOU's academic programs demonstrate a coherent design with appropriate breadth, depth, sequencing of courses, and synthesis of learning, the Liberal Studies degree program represents an exception. While recognized as meeting the needs of a large number of students and resulting in the second highest number of degrees awarded annually, the Liberal Studies degree program is vulnerable to weak academic oversight, a potential paucity of senior-level credits, and an inadequate number of faculty to oversee capstone experiences. The Commission recommends that the University refocus assessment efforts on the Liberal Studies program (Standard 2.C.4 and 2.C.5).

The Commission requests that the University address Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the Fall 2013 Year Three *Resources and Capacity* Peer-Evaluation Report in the Fall 2017 Year Seven Self-Evaluation Report. In addition, Recommendation 4 of the Fall 2013 Year Three *Resources and Capacity* Peer-Evaluation Report is to be addressed in an Ad Hoc Report in Fall 2014. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference. Moreover, with regard to Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report and Recommendations 5 and 6 of the Fall 2008 Comprehensive Evaluation Report, the Commission determined that its expectations have been met.

The Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Fall 2013 Year Three *Resources and Capacity* Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Eastern Oregon University is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement.

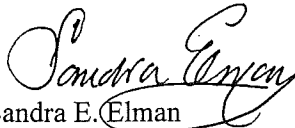
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If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes for a peaceful and fulfilling New Year.

Sincerely,


Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosure: Recommendations

cc: Dr. Sarah Witte, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

Year Three *Resources and Capacity* Evaluation
Fall 2013
Eastern Oregon University
Recommendations (Revised)

1. The evaluation committee recommends that Eastern Oregon University continue its work on articulating mission fulfillment to more clearly describe the process and criteria which determine an acceptable level of mission fulfillment in cases where the institution has not yet met its ambitious targets (Standard 1.A.2).
2. While checking certificate programs for related instruction, the evaluation committee found that not all catalog listings are current. The evaluation committee therefore recommends that EOU take the necessary steps to ensure that all catalog listings are accurate and that certificate programs meet NWCCU requirements for related instruction (Standard 2.C.11, 2.D.5).
3. Whereas the evaluation committee acknowledges that EOU has made significant progress toward uniform application of academic portfolio assessment, it recommends that the University continue to ensure uniform application of assessment across all academic programs (Standard 2.C.4).
4. Although the majority of EOU's academic programs demonstrate a coherent design with appropriate breadth, depth, sequencing of courses, and synthesis of learning, the Liberal Studies degree program represents an exception. While recognized as meeting the needs of a large number of students and resulting in the second highest number of degrees awarded annually, the Liberal Studies degree program is vulnerable to weak academic oversight, a potential paucity of senior-level credits, and an inadequate number of faculty to oversee capstone experiences. The Commission recommends that the University refocus assessment efforts on the Liberal Studies program (Standard 2.C.4 and Policy 2.C.5).