

## Commendations and Recommendations

### COMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee commends Utah Valley University on the success of its transitioning to university status, noting that the accompanying growth of the institution is in itself another transition.
2. The Committee commends the faculty, staff, administration and Trustees of UVU for their extraordinary efforts to accommodate the rapid growth of the institution, for their willing spirit as they have consequently done more with less, and for their engagement with the institution and its programs.
3. The Committee commends UVU for remaining student centered throughout the transition in status and the transformation in size.
4. The Committee commends the institution for undertaking important additional work on academic, faculty, and student issues required for the maintenance of its unique dual mission through the "Advisory Council on Our Unique Educational Mission."
5. The Committee commends Utah Valley University for its response to a recommendation from the 2005 NWCCU visit and hiring 26 new full-time discipline specific advisors and creating an Office of Student Advising and Support Services and implementing an Academic Advisor Certification Program. Reports, including off-campus, from students and faculty alike indicate that this model has greatly improved advising at Utah Valley University. (Standard 2.C.5)
6. The Committee commends UVU for its maintenance of a very attractive campus that creates a model environment for teaching and learning.
7. The Committee commends the institution for the development of the new library and information commons, a building that has dramatically changed the academic climate at the university. With its emphasis on expanding the use of technology by students and faculty, the building is also recognized for its energy efficiency that provides an important cost-saving benefit to the university.
8. The Committee commends UVU on the development of the One Stop Student Services, for its creative physical layout, and for implementing the concept of consolidated services for students.

## Recommendations

1. The committee recommends that Utah Valley University complete its work on a strategic plan for managing growth *so it is clear that additional resources must accompany additional growth*. While the institution has accommodated recent rapid growth in enrollment and has acquired some additional human, physical and financial resources for that endeavor, it is clear to the committee that a goal of additional growth must be consistent with both UVU's mission and its resources. (Standards One – 1.A, 1.A.5; Four – 4.A.3 and Seven – 7.B.5; Eight – 8.A.1).
2. The Committee recognizes the progress the institution has made in educational assessment, however significant work remains. Student learning outcomes for some programs are incomplete, the use of assessment data beyond the program level is limited, and few programs provide evidence that assessment data influences program design or delivery. The Committee recommends that the institution complete its work on assessment and ensure that those data are made part of the PBA process. (Standard Two, 2.B 1-3, Policy 2.2)
3. In order to ensure that faculty have the ability to acquire and sustain their expertise, thereby contributing to the validity and vitality of their teaching (Standard 4.B), have sufficient time for professional growth and renewal (Standard 4.A.3), and are able to exhibit major commitment to graduate education, as appropriate (Standard 2.E.4), the evaluation committee recommends that UVU complete a reevaluation of faculty workload policy. While meaningful differences exist across disciplines and across levels of instruction, all forms of contact time are currently treated equally; most service activities are largely unrecognized in the current policy; and significant effort is needed to maintain “inclusiveness” in an open-enrollment environment while contributing to the university's emerging “serious” theme.