



January 24, 2018

Dr. Matthew S. Holland
President
Utah Valley University
800 West University Parkway
Orem, UT 84058

Dear President Holland:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the Fall 2017 Year Seven Evaluation of Utah Valley University by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on January 10-12, 2018. This action was taken after consideration of evidence, including the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report, the Peer Evaluation Report, the optional Institutional Response to the Peer Evaluation Report, and information received as part of the institutional representative meeting with Commissioners.

Based on these materials and deliberations, the Commissioners took the following actions.

Accreditation

- Reaffirm Accreditation

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in This Evaluation

- Recommendations 2 and 3 of the Fall 2010 Comprehensive Evaluation Report are fulfilled.

Rescind Evaluation Committee Recommendation 5

The Commission rescinded Recommendation 5 of the Fall 2017 Year Seven Peer Evaluation Report.

5. While the evaluation committee recognizes that Utah Valley University has done some work to address the workload recommendation from previous NWCCU visits, the evaluation committee recommends that UVU continue to review faculty workload to address concerns with consistency in application by program and college, unofficial or unaccounted for workload obligations, and limited processes or procedures to appropriately calculate workload associated with the creative teaching techniques such as interdisciplinary team teaching or extremely large class sizes (Standard 2.B.5).

Recommendations: Fall 2017 Year Seven Evaluation Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that the institution:

1. Refine its core theme indicators and measures of non-academic programs and services to ensure that they are meaningful, assessable, and verifiable, and, that they represent acceptable thresholds of the extent of mission fulfillment. In doing so, the campus would have indicators and measures to provide a stronger basis for evaluating accomplishments of the core theme objectives, and potentially a more even mix of direct and indirect measures (Standard 1.A.2, Standard 1.B.2 and Standard 3.B.3).
2. Improve the transparency of the planning, budgeting, and assessment process below the executive level due to inconsistent communication across departments, schools, colleges, and administrative units (Standard 3.A.1 and Standard 3.A.2).
3. Evaluate holistically the alignment, correlation, and integration of planning, resources, capacity, practices, and assessment of achievement of goals and intended outcomes of existing programs and activities as the institution plans for new programs and activities (Standard 4.A.5).
4. Strengthen the planning and assessment components of the PBA process to ensure the adequacy of its human and financial resources, capacity, and effectiveness of operations to document its ongoing potential to fulfill its mission, accomplish its core theme objectives, and achieve the goals or intended outcomes of its programs and services, wherever offered and however delivered (Standard 5.B.1).

Required Follow-Up

- Address Recommendations 1 and 3 as an addendum to the Spring 2019 Mission and Core Themes Report.
- Address Recommendations 2 and 4 as an addendum to the Fall 2020 Mid-Cycle Report.

Commendations: Fall 2017 Year Seven Evaluation

The Commission commends Utah Valley University in particular for the following:

1. The Commission commends Utah Valley University for its focus on and culture of student success. As one of the institution's core themes, a focus on student success was readily apparent to the evaluation committee and is demonstrated in many ways, including: concurrent enrollment, academic advising/tutoring/mentoring services, Wellness Center, engaged teaching, supplemental instruction, and success workshops.
2. The Commission commends Utah Valley University for remaining true to its mission during a time of unprecedented growth. The campus remains true to its heritage as a career/technical institution while embracing the added element of university-focused programs.
3. The Commission commends Utah Valley University for the extensive array of professional development opportunities for faculty and staff, offered through the department of Human Resources and the Office of Teaching and Learning. The UVU Learn portal, UVSELF, and Summer University programs are outstanding examples of Utah Valley University's commitment to employee professional growth through online, face-to-face, mentoring and training programs, and tuition waivers.
4. The Commission commends Utah Valley University for its excellent facilities and well-maintained grounds.
5. The Commission commends Utah Valley University for the design and implementation of a systematic and systemic academic advisor training program to ensure personnel responsible for advising are knowledgeable of curriculum, program requirements, and are adequately prepared to help students succeed. The Academic Advisor Competencies and Certification Program offers five key competencies through a series of training and assessment activities and is nationally recognized as a best practice.

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Future Evaluations

- Mission and Core Themes Report in Spring 2019
- Mid-Cycle Evaluation in Fall 2020
- Year Seven Evaluation in Fall 2024

NWCCU is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact NWCCU.

Sincerely,



Marlene Moore
President

MM/rb

cc: Ms. Linda Makin, Vice President for Planning, Budget and Human Resources
Ms. Elaine Dalton, Chair, Board of Trustees
Dr. Douglas Abbott, Chair, Evaluation Committee