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February 13, 2012

Dr. Waded Cruzado
President
Montana State University - Bozeman
P.O. Box 172420
211 Montana Hall
Bozeman, MT 59717-2420

Dear President ^{Waded} Cruzado:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I write to report that the Commission has deferred acceptance of Montana State University - Bozeman's Fall 2011 Year One Self-Evaluation Report which was expanded to address Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Fall 2009 Comprehensive Evaluation Report. This matter was the subject of correspondence dated January 29, 2010.

In deferring acceptance of the University's Year One Self-Evaluation Report, the Commission requests that the University address Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Fall 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report in an updated Year One Self-Evaluation Report to be submitted by May 1, 2012, for review by the Commission at its July 9-11, 2012, meeting. Further, the Commission requests that the University again address Recommendations 5 and 6 of the Fall 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report in its updated response to Standard Two, *Resources and Capacity*, in its Fall 2013 Year Three Self-Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

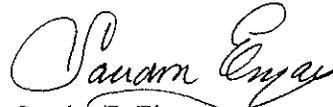
In making these requests, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Fall 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Montana State University - Bozeman is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement. In addition, the Commission finds that Recommendation 3 of the Fall 2009 Comprehensive Evaluation is now substantially in compliance. However, the Commission determined that Recommendation 5 of the Fall 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report does not meet Commission criteria for accreditation. According to U.S. Department of Education Regulation 34 CFR 602.20 and Commission Policy A-18, *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period* (enclosed), the Commission requires that Montana State University - Bozeman take appropriate action to ensure that Recommendation 5 is addressed and resolved within the prescribed two-year period.

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

All the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra E. Elman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosures: Recommendations
Policy A-18

cc: Dr. Ronald W. Larsen, Associate Provost ✓

Year One Peer-Evaluation Report
Fall 2011
Montana State University - Bozeman
Recommendations

1. The evaluation panel recommends that the University document and provide evidence of both the Board of Regents' approval of the mission statement and the University community's awareness and understanding of the statement (Standard 1.A.1).
2. The evaluation panel recommends that the University articulate accomplishments or outcomes that represent acceptable thresholds or extent of mission fulfillment (Standard 1.A.2).
3. The evaluation panel recommends that the University finalize its core themes (Standard 1.B.1).
4. The evaluation panel recommends that the University examine the relationship of each objective to the theme and the need for and feasibility of the numerous objectives and classes of indicators proposed. There is a need to reduce the number of indicators to those key, specific indicators; determine methods and sources for data collection and other information to demonstrate the extent to which they can be assessed; establish its baseline data for each indicator; and determine appropriate targets to measure progress (Standard 1.B.2).
5. The evaluation panel recommends that either additional resources be generated to support such areas as research, graduate education, undergraduate research, faculty and staff development, and facilities management or that strategic reallocations be made to ensure such support and that the progress by which this is achieved be consultative, participatory, and transparent consistent with the University's own commitment to those values (Recommendation 1 from the 2009 Comprehensive Evaluation, Standard 7.B.1) (new Standards 2.F.1; 3.A.2, 3.A.4; 4.A.5 and 5.B.1).
6. The evaluation panel recommends that the University work with the Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Higher Education, Montana University System, to develop comprehensive policies and practices that will ensure competitive salaries and benefits for the recruitment and retention of faculty, staff and administrators (Recommendation 3 from the 2009 Comprehensive Evaluation, Standards 4 and 7) (new Standard 2.B.1 and 2.B.4).

Policy A-18 Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period

If the Commission determines that an institution it accredits is not in compliance with a Commission standard for accreditation, the Commission will immediately initiate adverse action against the institution or require the institution to take appropriate action to bring itself into compliance within a time period that shall not exceed: 1) twelve months, if the longest program offered by the institution, is less than one year in length; 2) eighteen months, if the longest program offered by the institution, is at least one year, but less than two years, in length; or 3) two years, if the longest program offered by the institution, is at least two years in length.

The Commission may extend the period for compliance noted above should it reasonably expect that, based upon the institution's progress toward meeting the Commission's standard for accreditation, the institution will come into full compliance within a reasonable timeframe. Should an institution deem that as a result of mitigating circumstances it is not able to comply with the standard for accreditation within the specified period of time, the institution may submit a written request to the Commission for additional time to come into compliance with the standard for accreditation. The request is to be submitted prior to the time limit for corrective action set forth by the Commission, provide a detailed explanation of the reasons why the institution cannot comply with the standard for accreditation within the designated time period, and demonstrate that the institution is making good progress in meeting the standard for accreditation. Following a review of the request, the Commission will make a determination as to whether the institution has based its request on valid reasons. If the Commission determines that the institution has substantiated good cause for not complying within the specified time period and is making good progress to come into compliance, the Commission will extend the period for achieving compliance and stipulate requirements for continuing oversight of the institution's accreditation during the extension.

Adopted 1997/Revised 2002