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February 2, 2011

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

Dear President Holland:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Utah Valley University has been reaffirmed at the associate and baccalaureate degree levels on the basis of the Fall 2010 Comprehensive Evaluation. In addition, the Commission granted accreditation at the master's degree level to include the Master of Education degree program. The effective date for accreditation at the master's degree level is September 1, 2009. Congratulations on receiving this recognition.

The policy of the Commission is not to grant accreditation for a definite number of years. Instead, accreditation must be reaffirmed periodically. In the case of Utah Valley University, the Commission requests that the institution submit an addendum to its Fall 2013 Year Three Self-Evaluation Report to address Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 of the Fall 2010 Comprehensive Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In light of the University's substantial growth over the last two years and anticipated growth in the foreseeable future, the Commission expressed concern regarding the institution's financial planning capacity. Accordingly, it requests that in addressing Recommendation 1, the institution provide a minimum of three years of projections for revenues, expenditures and capital (Standard 7.A.2).

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 of the Fall 2010 Comprehensive Evaluation Report are areas where Utah Valley University is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement.

The Commission commends the University on the success of transitioning to university status. Likewise, the Commission applauds the faculty, staff, administration and trustees for their extraordinary efforts to accommodate the rapid growth of the institution, for their willing spirit as they have consequently provided services while having fewer resources, and for their engagement with the institution and its programs. The Commission further commends the University for remaining student-centered throughout the transition and 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

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Educational Mission.” Lastly, the Commission finds noteworthy the University’s maintenance of a very attractive campus that creates a model environment for teaching and learning, the development of the new library and information commons, and the development of the One Stop Student Services.

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

Best wishes for a rewarding academic year.

Sincerely,

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

Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosure: Recommendations

cc: Dr. Mohammed El-Saidi, Interim Vice President Academic Affairs ✓
Mr. Steven J. Lund, Board Chair
Dr. William A. Sederburg, Commissioner, Utah System of Higher Education

Comprehensive Evaluation Report
Fall 2010
Utah Valley University
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 1.A, 1.A.5; 4.A.3; 7.A.2, 7.B.5; and 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 2.B.1, 2.B.2, 2.B.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, have sufficient time for professional growth and renewal, and are able to exhibit major commitment to graduate education, as appropriate, the 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 (Standards 2.E.4; 4.A.3, 4.B).