January 27, 2014

Dr. Michael K. Young  
President  
University of Washington  
Office of the President  
301 Gerberding Hall, Box 351230  
Seattle, WA 98195-1230  

Dear President Young:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of the University of Washington has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Fall 2013 Year Seven Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation which was to include Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Spring 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission requests that the University include an addendum in its Spring 2015 Year One Mission and Core Themes Report to address Recommendations 2 and 3 of the Fall 2013 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. In addition, the Commission requests that the University include an addendum in its Spring 2016 Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation Report to address Recommendations 1 and 4 of the Fall 2013 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. In making these requests, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Fall 2013 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where the University of Washington is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

The Commission commends the University for its robust response to the fiscal downturn, marked by planning that engaged much of the University's community. In addition, the Commission applauds the University's commitment to access, which is exemplified by the high fraction of Pell-eligible and first-generation college students on the University's Bothell, Seattle, and Tacoma campuses as well as its commitment to enhancing the undergraduate experience through freshman interest groups, undergraduate research opportunities, the Husky Leadership Initiative, and an intellectually vibrant residential community. Moreover, the Commission commends the fostering of effective collaborations between the library and significant academic programs to enhance active learning, research, scholarship, and service. Further, the Commission finds laudable the University's distinguished health science enterprise characterized by innovative programs. Lastly, the Commission finds noteworthy the University's efforts to ensure that student-athletes across sports and affinity groups (gender, race, and ethnicity) demonstrate strong graduation and retention rates.
If you have any 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. Gerald Baldasty, Senior Vice Provost for Academic and Student Affairs
     Mr. Orin Smith, Chair, Board of Regents
Year Seven Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation
Fall 2013
University of Washington
Recommendations

1. The evaluation committee recommends that the University develop a plan for bringing faculty salaries up to the median for its comparison group. The gap in faculty compensation between the University of Washington and its peer institutions is among the greatest long-term threats to the University's ability to fulfill its mission and sustain excellence. The committee recognizes that this may require new resources (Standard 5.B.1 and 5.B.3).

2. The University of Washington has selected three core themes: teaching and learning; research and scholarship; and service. The evaluation committee recommends that the University establish a small number of clear and measurable goals in each thematic area, using its impressive capacity for qualitative and quantitative research and analysis. Such goals would serve to focus planning, assessment, and coordination across units and campuses (Standard 3.A.3 and 3.B.3).

3. The evaluation committee recommends that the University build upon its robust culture of assessment to create a more coherent, integrated, and comprehensive approach to assessment to support its planning efforts (Standard 3.A.1).

4. The evaluation committee recommends that the University consider ways to enhance communication between the staff and institutional leadership and find additional ways to show appreciation for staff contributions (Standard 2.B.3).