July 12, 2024

Sabah U. Randhawa
President
Western Washington University
516 High Street, MS 9033
Bellingham, WA 98225-9033

Dear President Randhawa:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on June 18-21, 2024, concerning the Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of Western Washington University.

Accreditation
Reaffirm Accreditation

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation

• Recommendation 6: Spring 2020 Mid-Cycle Review - Continued as Needs Improvement and revised to Recommendation 4: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness

• Finding Type 1: Spring 2023 Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review - Fulfilled

Commendations
The Commission commends Western Washington University for:

1. WWU’s re-envisioning and branding of general education through GURs. It is an excellent demonstration of faculty collaboration and engagement in continuous improvement with a focus on students and 21st century skills.

2. Its work and the level of detail, transparency, and clarity provided on the Institutional Effectiveness dashboards.

3. Its commitment to student success demonstrated through effective programs and services serving diverse student needs provided by a team of professionals across the institution. Development of a new enrollment and student services led strategic plan; restructured offices to form the Centers for Student Access, Community, and Intercultural Engagement and the establishment of the new academic advising and student achievement center are recent key initiatives.

4. The faculty’s engagement in the review of regular and substantive interaction (RSI) for all course modalities, having identified key components of RSI that not only meet the baseline requirements, but provide students with critical content, peer, and faculty engagement for the selected modality.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement
The Commission recommends that Western Washington University:

• Recommendation 1: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Publish the expected program and degree learning outcomes for all degrees, certificates, and credentials. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.3)

• Recommendation 2: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Develop processes to ensure that assessment activities are completed, and reports submitted and archived to increase the effectiveness of its system of assessment through increased accountability and quality assurance. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.5)

• Recommendation 3: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Review and revise the assessment of general education, including assessment of General University Requirements to encompass all courses for each literacy with a more condensed assessment cycle. Additionally, the outcomes for the Fairhaven Core Curriculum should be published and systematically assessed. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.6)
• Recommendation 4: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Complete the Facility Master Plan, currently under development, to assist in maintaining physical facilities and technology infrastructure that are accessible, safe, secure, and sufficient in quantity and quality to ensure healthful learning and working environments that support and sustain the institution’s mission, academic programs, and services. (2020 Standard(s) 2.1.1)

Future Evaluations

• Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2027
  o Recommendation 1: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
  o Recommendation 2: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
  o Recommendation 3: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
  o Recommendation 4: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness

• Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2030
• Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2031

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 your staff liaison, Dr. Ron Larsen, at rlarsen@nwccu.org.

Sincerely,

Sonny Ramaswamy
President

cc: Dr. Jack Herring, Associate VP for Academic Affairs
    Ms. Faith Li Pettis, Chair, Board of Trustees
    Dr. Carol Long, Provost and Senior Vice President, Willamette University
    Mr. Michael Meotti, Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council