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August 3, 2010

Dr. Rolf Groseth
Interim Chancellor
Montana State University - Billings
1500 University Drive
Billings, MT 59101-0298

Dear Chancellor ^{Rolf-} ~~Groseth~~:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Montana State University - Billings has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Spring 2010 Focused Interim Evaluation which addressed Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Fall 2008 Comprehensive Evaluation Report. This matter was the subject of Commission correspondence dated January 30, 2009. Congratulations on receiving this continued recognition.

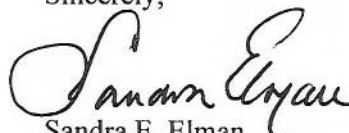
In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission requests that the University submit an addendum to the institution's Fall 2011 Year One Report to address Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 of the Spring 2010 Focused Interim Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In making this request, the Commission determined that Recommendation 1 of the Fall 2008 Comprehensive Evaluation Report is now substantially in compliance. In addition, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 of the Spring 2010 Focused Interim Evaluation are areas where Montana State University - Billings is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement.

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

Best wishes for a rewarding academic year.

Sincerely,


Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosure: Recommendations

cc: Dr. Gary F. Young, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs ✓
Mr. Clayton Christian, Chair, Board of Regents
Dr. Waded Cruzado, President, Montana State University - Bozeman
Dr. Sheila Stearns, Commissioner, Montana University System

Focused Interim Evaluation Report
Spring 2010
Montana State University - Billings
Recommendations

1. Although all degree programs have established learning objectives in some degree programs, these objectives are vague and unclear, thus making their measurement unreliable. In other cases the measures used to assess achievement of the learning objectives seem inappropriate (Standard 2.B.1, Policy 2.2).
2. Although the actions of the Board of Regents and President Cruzado to more clearly define intercampus governance may be steps in the right direction, at this point there is nothing concretely proposed and nothing adopted (Standards 1.A.1, 6.A.4, 7.A.1).
3. There seems to be only a limited attempt to reassess the appropriateness of the mission of the University even though resources are likely to be more limited in the future than they were at the time of the 2008 report when these concerns were first raised. Leaving positions vacant and other types of cuts may not be sufficient for the University to achieve its mission as currently defined and with the resources available (Standards 1.A.4, 7.B.5).