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January 26, 2015

Dr. Arthur Vailas
President
Idaho State University
921 S. 8th Avenue, Stop 8310
Pocatello, ID 83209-8310

Dear President Vailas: ^{Art}

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Idaho State University has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Fall 2014 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation which was expanded to include the onsite evaluation of Standards Two, Three, Four, and Five. In addition, the University's Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Report was to address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2011 Year One *Mission and Core Themes* Peer-Evaluation Report as part of an updated response to Standard One. The Commission finds that its expectations with regard to Recommendation 1 of the Fall 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report have been met. However, the Commission determined that its expectations with regard to Recommendation 2 of the Fall 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report still have not been met. Thus the issues are included in Recommendation 1 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Peer-Evaluation Report.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission has incorporated Recommendations 4, 6, and 7 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Peer-Evaluation Report in the newly revised Recommendation 4 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Peer-Evaluation Report to cohesively address areas of continuous improvement and sustainability. The newly revised Recommendation 4 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Peer-Evaluation Report states:

The evaluation committee recommends that the institution continues to work to clarify the ways in which it will use assessment results to inform and strengthen programs and services, and to demonstrate institutional improvement, mission fulfillment, and sustainability (Standards 4.A, 4.B, 5.A, and 5.B).

In addition, please note that the Commission has added Standard 1.A.2 to further explicate Recommendation 1 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Peer-Evaluation Report. The Commission requests that the University address Recommendation 1 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report in an updated response to Standard One in its regularly scheduled Fall 2015 Year One Report. Moreover, the Commission requests that the University prepare an Ad Hoc Report without a visit in Spring 2016 to address Recommendations 2 and 5 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Peer-Evaluation Report. Further, the Commission requests that the

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University address Recommendation 3 and the newly revised Recommendation 4 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Peer-Evaluation Report in its Fall 2017 Mid-Cycle Evaluation Report.

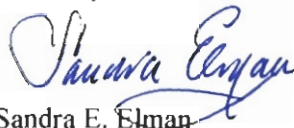
In making these requests, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and the newly revised Recommendation 4 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Idaho State University is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement. However, the Commission determined that Recommendation 5 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Peer-Evaluation Report is an area where Idaho State University does not meet the Commission's criteria for accreditation. According to U.S. Department of Education Regulation 34 CFR 602.20 and Commission Policy, *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period*, the Commission requires that the University take appropriate action to ensure that Recommendation 5 is addressed and resolved within the prescribed two-year period. A copy of the Recommendations and the Commission Policy are enclosed for your reference.

The Commission commends the University for its approach to providing a safe and secure campus as evidenced by the attention to the well being of the community as a priority, supported by collaboration and partnerships with on-campus and off campus constituents. In addition, the Commission finds laudable the University's commitment to serving and promoting the success of students of diverse interests, backgrounds, and levels of readiness as demonstrated by a near universal commitment among faculty and staff to ensure that students are well served, supported and educated. Moreover, the Commission finds noteworthy the University's continuous engagement in community outreach on many different levels, providing important demonstrable services and interacting integrally with community and regional partners in numerous functions, collaborations, and projects. Lastly, the Commission applauds the University on its process of program prioritization which engages faculty, department heads, professional staff and administrators in a thoughtful, comprehensive, and inclusive process yielding information that appears to be guiding planning, budgeting, and strategic reallocation, potentially serving as a model for continuous improvement and achievement of mission fulfillment.

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

Best wishes for a peaceful and fulfilling New Year.

Sincerely,



Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosures: Recommendations
Commission Policy, *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period*

cc: Ms. Selena Grace, Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness
Ms. Emma Atchley, Board President, Idaho State Board of Education
Dr. Mike Rush, Executive Director, Idaho State Board of Education

Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation
Fall 2014
Idaho State University
Recommendations (Revised)

1. The evaluation committee recommends that Idaho State University either revise its mission statement or review and revise its core themes, indicators, and benchmarks/targets to ensure that they encompass the entirety of the present mission statement (Standard 1.A.2 and 1.B.1).
2. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution build upon its present governance framework by promoting an environment of transparency and collegiality, resulting in trust that encourages the expression and consideration of the views of faculty, staff, administrators, and students on matters in which they have a direct and reasonable interest (Standard 2.A.1).
3. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution integrate all campus plans into a comprehensive planning process (Standard 3.A.1).
4. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution continue to work to clarify the ways in which it will use assessment results to inform and strengthen programs and services, and to demonstrate institutional improvement, mission fulfillment, and sustainability (Standards 4.A, 4.B, 5.A, and 5.B).
5. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution develop and implement a process of ongoing assessment of student learning outcomes for its General Education program (Standard 4.A).

Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period Policy

If the Commission determines that an institution it accredits is not in compliance with a Commission standard for accreditation or an eligibility requirement, 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 or eligibility requirement, 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 or eligibility requirement 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 or eligibility requirement. 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.