



July 25, 2022

C. Scott Green
President
University of Idaho
875 Perimeter Drive
Moscow, ID 83844-2150

Dear President Green:

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 21-24, 2022, concerning the Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of University of Idaho. This action was taken after consideration of evidence, including the institution's Self-Evaluation Report, the Peer-Evaluation Report, the optional Institutional Response to the Peer-Evaluation Report, and information received as part of the institutional representative meeting with Commissioners.

Accreditation

Reaffirm Accreditation

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation

- Finding 1: Spring 2021 Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review - Fulfilled

Commendations

The Commission commends University of Idaho for:

1. Its commitment and passion that faculty and staff have for the University of Idaho. While it was clear that the institution had faced many challenges and difficult times over previous years, morale was generally high and there was a clear and enthusiastic esprit de corps for the university. The word family was used many times.
2. Leadership of the President and Provost, and their teams, for significantly improving the financial situation of the university and focusing the institution on key strategic priorities. Throughout the visit, the evaluation team heard appreciation for the decisive action to improve the financial situation, increased clarity around strategic priorities, increased transparency and collaboration and advocacy at the state level. In general, there was a sense of optimism about the future of the institution, and trust in leadership to seek broad input on decisions.
3. Its increased transparency and accessibility of data to inform decision-making. There was widespread enthusiasm for increased access to actionable data.
4. Its Student Success Team and University Advising Services support of UI students. These groups have implemented a number of initiatives to add value for students, including updating advisor position descriptions, adding additional advising positions, creating equitable advisor caseloads, increasing interaction with students, accommodating student preferences for advisor appointments, establishing programming to improve academic engagement, developing advisor training, implementing professional best practices, and conducting data-informed student outreach.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that University of Idaho:

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Use the results of its program and general education assessments to inform academic and learning-support planning and practices to continuously improve student learning outcomes. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.7)

- Recommendation 2: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Widely share within the institution indicators of student achievement, including but not limited to persistence, completion, retention and postgraduation success, for the purpose of closing barriers to academic excellence and success (equity gaps). These indicators should be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, age, gender, socioeconomic status, first generation college student and any other institutionally meaningful categories. (2020 Standard(s) 1.D.2)
- Recommendation 3: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Publish on its website the disaggregated indicators of student achievement that are benchmarked against its peers. (2020 Standard(s) 1.D.3)
- Recommendation 4: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Ensure that there are clear policies for work assignments for faculty and staff, that they are applied consistently at the unit level, and that faculty and staff have a clear understanding of their work assignments and how those are reflected in evaluation criteria. (2020 Standard(s) 2.F.1;2.F.4)
- Recommendation 5: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Evaluate current staffing levels for faculty and staff to ensure that the institution employs faculty and staff sufficient in role, number, and qualifications to achieve its organizational responsibilities, educational objectives, and academic policies, and ensure the integrity and continuity of its academic programs. (2020 Standard(s) 2.F.3)

Future Evaluations

- Ad Hoc Report Spring 2023
 - Recommendation 3: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2025
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 2: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 4: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 5: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2028
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2029

Per [USDE guidance](#), all virtual accreditation site visits shall be followed by in-person campus visits within a reasonable time when public health conditions improve and are authorized by applicable law. Campus visits may be limited to focus on items identified in the Peer-Evaluation Report and may include fewer than all evaluation team members.

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. Gwen Gorzelsky, Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives
Mr. Kurt Liebich, President, Idaho State Board of Education
Mr. Matt Freeman, Executive Director, Idaho State Board of Education
Mr. Ron Bramhall, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, University of Oregon