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July 24, 2018

Mr. Allan Belton
Acting President and Chief Financial Officer
Pacific Lutheran University
12180 Park Avenue S.
Tacoma, WA 98447-0003

Dear President Belton:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the Spring 2018 Year Seven Evaluation of Pacific Lutheran University by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on June 27-29, 2018. This action was taken after consideration of evidence, including the Institution's Self-Evaluation Report, the Peer-Evaluation Report, and information received as part of the institutional representative meeting with Commissioners.

Based on these materials and deliberations, the Commissioners took the following actions:

Accreditation

- Reaffirm Accreditation.
- Grant accreditation at the doctoral level based upon the implementation of the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program, effective September 1, 2016.

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation

- Recommendation 3 of the Spring 2014 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report is fulfilled and no further action is required.
- Recommendation 2 of the Spring 2014 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report is continued as Recommendation 2 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation and is an area of non-compliance.

Recommendations: Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Out of Compliance

The Commission finds that the following Recommendations are areas where Pacific Lutheran University is out of compliance with the NWCCU Standards 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* (attached), the Commission requires that Pacific Lutheran University take appropriate action to ensure these Recommendations are addressed and resolved in the prescribed period. The Commission recommends that the University:

1. Employ meaningful and appropriate measures for the indication of achievement of identified student learning outcomes, and that PLU clearly define the rationale for the threshold of each core theme objective indicator in order to clarify meaningfulness (4.A.1).

2. Plan and implement a comprehensive and effective system for documentation of program learning outcomes achievement, including for majors (2.C.1, 2.C.2, 2.C.3, 4.A.3).

Recommendation: Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation In Need of Improvement
The Commission recommends that the University:

3. Clarify the alignment, correlation, and integration of general education outcomes with the Integrative Learning Outcomes so that outcomes can be meaningfully measured, planning can be effectively implemented, and enhancements can be made to student learning achievements (4.A.4, 4.B.2).

Required Follow-Up

- Address Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report as an addendum to the Fall 2019 Mission and Core Themes Self-Evaluation Report.

Commendations: Spring 2018 Year Seven Evaluation

The Commission commends Pacific Lutheran University in particular for the following:

1. The Faculty Joint Committee and campus leadership for following procedures outlined in the faculty handbook for reduction of faculty positions; the University staff for their flexibility in assuming additional job responsibilities; and the entire institution for a collaborative budget planning effort that realigns the budget for future sustainability.
2. The inclusion of all groups of constituents - students, staff, and faculty - in the governance structure of the University.
3. The Division of Student Life for implementing a systematic cycle of program review using results from assessment and program review to improve services and programs to students.

Future Evaluations

- Mission and Core Themes Report in Fall 2019 to include an Addendum to address Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report.
- Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation and visit in Spring 2021.
- Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Self-Evaluation and visit in Spring 2025.

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 NWCCU.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy
President

SR:rb

cc: Ms. Summer Kenesson, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Mr. Ed Grogan, Chair, Pacific Lutheran University Board of Regents
Dr. Carol Long, Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer Evaluation Committee Chair