



January 24, 2018

Dr. Leonard M. Jessup  
President  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Box 451001  
Las Vegas, NV 89154-1001

Dear President Jessup:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the Fall 2017 Year Seven Evaluation of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on January 10-12, 2018. This action was taken after consideration of evidence, including the Institutional 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.

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

**Accreditation**

- Reaffirm Accreditation

**Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in This Evaluation**

- Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Spring 2013 Year Three Peer Evaluation Report are continued as Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2017 Peer Evaluation Report.
- Recommendations 3, 4, and 5 of the Spring 2013 Year Three Peer Evaluation Report are fulfilled.

**Recommendations:** Fall 2017 Year Seven Evaluation Out of Compliance

The Commission finds that the following recommendations are areas where the University of Nevada, Las Vegas 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* (enclosed), the Commission requires that University of Nevada, Las Vegas take appropriate action to ensure these Recommendations are addressed and resolved in the prescribed period.

The Commission recommends that the institution:

2. Refine its Core Theme indicators so that effective assessment can occur regularly in the future. Although UNLV has outlined a strong set of Core Themes, progress was difficult to evaluate, given that Core Themes and indicators were modified in 2015, and targets were not provided for 2017. The evidence related to assessment and improvement of these Core Themes is still lacking, particularly for the Core Themes related to the Academic Health Center and Community Partnerships (Standards 1.B.2, 4.A.1, 4.A.4, 4.B.1).

**Recommendations:** Fall 2017 Year Seven Evaluation Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that the institution:

1. Effectively integrate the current Top Tier strategic effort and the accreditation process so that meaningful assessment of progress and mission fulfillment on the Top Tier initiatives can inform the accreditation process. A robust and detailed accounting of the progress on accreditation core themes should be presented in an organized manner so as to accurately assess and demonstrate mission fulfillment (Standards 1.A.2, 3.A.1, 3.A.3, 5.A.1, 5.A.2).
3. Ensure that accurate data are available to all appropriate constituents. The University's lack of accurate data was noted and appears to have hindered decision-making, planning, and assessment efforts (Standard 3.A.3, 3.B.3).

**Required Follow-Up**

- Submit an Ad Hoc Report (with a visit) in Fall 2018 to address Recommendation 2 of the Fall 2017 Year Seven Peer Evaluation Report.
- Submit an Addendum to the Spring 2019 *Mission and Core Themes* Report to address Recommendations 1 and 3 of the Fall 2017 Year Seven Peer Evaluation Report.

**Commendations:** Fall 2017 Year Seven Evaluation

The Commission commends University of Nevada, Las Vegas in particular for the following:

1. UNLV is to be commended for developing a thorough and forward-looking strategic plan entitled "Top Tier." The plan has stimulated great enthusiasm and excitement for the trajectory of the institution. The development and implementation of "Top Tier" has involved a large number of constituents and is therefore well known across the campus. The plan has brought a high degree of unity for UNLV and its constituents.
2. The University is to be commended for its robust assessment efforts related to student learning and success. Many faculty members engage in the multifaceted assessment of the General Education curriculum. Additionally, the level of attention paid to ensuring positive outcomes for students who utilize support services, especially students from historically underserved populations, is particularly impressive. The thoughtful approach to academic advising in the schools and in the Academic Success Center has resulted in high student satisfaction because of positive impacts on course and major selection.
3. UNLV is commended for opening a medical school based upon an innovative curriculum that integrates problem-based clinical learning with cutting edge technology to prepare physicians who will provide compassionate care in Nevada communities.
4. The University Libraries are commended for embedding assessment into the culture of the organization, including development of a strategic plan that explicitly links well-defined measures of success to the Top Tier strategic plan.
5. The University is to be commended for its compassionate responses to the tragic events of October 1. Those responses, by students, staff, and faculty, exemplify the engagement with the community that has existed from the University's beginnings and that the strategic plan seeks to increase and enhance.

Commission Action Letter: University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
January 24, 2018  
Page 3 of 3

**Future Evaluations**

- Mission and Core Themes Report in Spring 2019
- Mid-Cycle Evaluation in Fall 2020
- Year Seven Evaluation in Fall 2024

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,



Marlene Moore  
President

MM/rb

cc: Dr. Carl Reiber, Senior Vice Provost, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Mr. Kevin Page, Chair, Nevada System of Higher Education  
Dr. Thom Reilly, Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education  
Dr. Royce Engstrom, Chair, Evaluation Committee