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July 3, 2019

Dr. Brett Fairbairn
President and Vice Chancellor
Thompson Rivers University
900 McGill Road
Kamloops, B.C. V2C 0C8

Dear President Fairbairn:

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 19-21, 2019, concerning the Spring 2019 Interim Candidacy Review Evaluation of Thompson Rivers University. 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 representatives' meeting with the Commissioners.

Accreditation

- Grant accreditation at the associate, baccalaureate, and master's degree levels.

Congratulations on receiving this recognition! We are aware of the years of hard work and dedication on the part of the administration, faculty, board, and staff to achieve this goal. The effective date of accreditation for Thompson Rivers University is September 1, 2018. The accreditation status of Thompson Rivers University will be posted to the Commission's website. The policy of the Commission is to grant accreditation, which must be reaffirmed periodically.

Under the seven-year accreditation cycle, the following regular reviews are scheduled for Thompson Rivers University:

- Spring 2022: Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation Report and Visit
- Spring 2026: Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Report and Visit

Commendations

The Commission commends Thompson Rivers University for:

1. Excellence in sustainability and the integration of this Core Theme throughout its operation, including, among others, curriculum development and finance.
2. Its efforts to grow its research impact in a manner synergistic with its foundational commitment to student success. Specifically, through the efforts of its faculty and the Office of Research, TRU has created numerous opportunities for students to engage in mentored and/or independent research.

3. Developing budgeting approaches that have provided funding for its Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) as well as an internal reallocation of \$1 million a year to address deferred maintenance.
4. Embarking on efforts to create a draft proposal for an inclusive, student-centered, faculty-driven process to create a General Education Program, which has resulted in a highly engaged culture around the undergraduate curriculum.

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation

- Recommendation 1: Fall 2017 Interim Candidacy Review – *Continued as Needs Improvement* as revised Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2019 Interim Candidacy Evaluation
- Recommendation 2: Fall 2017 Interim Candidacy Review – *Continued as Non-Compliant* as revised Recommendation 2 of the Spring 2019 Interim Candidacy Evaluation. The timeline to come into compliance is extended for good cause until Spring 2021
- Recommendation 3: Fall 2017 Interim Candidacy Review – *Fulfilled*
- Recommendation 4: Fall 2017 Interim Candidacy Review – *Continued as Needs Improvement* as revised Recommendation 3 of the Spring 2019 Interim Candidacy Evaluation
- Recommendation 5: Fall 2017 Interim Candidacy Review – *Fulfilled*
- Recommendation 6: Fall 2017 Interim Candidacy Review – *Continued as Needs Improvement* as revised Recommendation 4 of the Spring 2019 Interim Candidacy Evaluation
- Recommendation 7: Fall 2017 Interim Candidacy Review – *Fulfilled*

Recommendations Out of Compliance

According to Commission Policy, *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period* (enclosed), the Commission requires that Thompson Rivers University take appropriate action to ensure this Recommendation is addressed and resolved in the prescribed two-year period.

The Commission recommends that Thompson Rivers University:

2. Finalize development of a General Education program including the approval of its proposed General Education Model, of courses for the Model, and of an assessment plan for the Model (Standards 2.C.9 and 2.C.10).

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that Thompson Rivers University:

1. Continue improvement of indicators and thresholds to better align assessment of those parameters with Core Themes and the mission of TRU (Standard 1.B.2).
3. Establish learning outcomes for all courses and programs, and establish a regular process whereby program faculty collect, reflect on, and act as appropriate on meaningful data regarding student learning, including general education (Standards 4.A.3 and 4.B.2).
4. Continue to evaluate, update, and finalize internal financial controls (Standard 2.F.4).

Required Follow-Up

- Ad Hoc Report without a visit Fall 2020
 - Recommendation 2: Spring 2019 Interim Candidacy Review
- Mid-Cycle Evaluation with Addendum Spring 2022
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2019 Interim Candidacy
 - Recommendation 3: Spring 2019 Interim Candidacy
 - Recommendation 4: Spring 2019 Interim Candidacy

Future Evaluations

- Ad Hoc Report without a visit Fall 2020
 - Recommendation 2: Spring 2019 Interim Candidacy Review
- Mid-Cycle Evaluation with Addendum Spring 2022
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2019 Interim Candidacy Evaluation
 - Recommendation 3: Spring 2019 Interim Candidacy Evaluation
 - Recommendation 4: Spring 2019 Interim Candidacy Evaluation
- Year Seven Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation Spring 2026

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, Senior Vice President Pamela Goad.

I'd like to reiterate Thompson Rivers University is to be commended for its commitment to student success and congratulations to you and your students, faculty, staff, the accreditation team, and the Board on a job well done!

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy
President

SR:pg

cc: Ms. Alana Hoare, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Dr. Royce Engstrom and Dr. Denzil Suite, Spring 2019 Interim Candidacy Review,
Committee Co-Chairs