

I am pleased to announce that the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities has reaffirmed UCC for accreditation. The Commission commended UCC in multiple areas, including our focus on student success, the TRIO program and our response to the events of October 1, 2015. We were also recognized for our proactive approach to reducing loan default rates and the quality of our catalog entries for programs and certificates.

Despite all of our success in the aforementioned categories, the notice of accreditation also included nine recommendations that require follow up. This included a Warning; when the Commission discovers that a particular institution is on a course that could lead to serious sanctions, it issues a warning, which is a public sanction to correct deficiencies or initiate certain activities.

Work on the required responses will begin immediately after the responsible parties on campus have been identified. Once work is underway, I will require frequent updates from everyone involved in this initiative to ensure we are on track to bring all areas of the college in line with accreditation requirements.

As the faculty, staff and administrators of UCC, you are all extremely talented, committed and poised to act on these items. I am confident that UCC will successfully comply with accreditation requirements while also attending to our recovery, enrollment and financial stability.

Best,
Dr. Debra Thatcher
President, UCC

Section 1

The Commission determined the need for two policies and procedures to be developed and implemented.

1

Academic freedom policy: UCC's current academic freedom policy is not in compliance with accreditation, so the college and must address how it will improve this area to meet accreditation requirements.

2

Hazardous waste policy and procedures: The Commission determined that UCC's hazardous waste policy and associated procedures are not in compliance with accreditation, and must be improved.

Timeline: UCC's response to this area of concern is required as part of an ad hoc report due to the NWCCU in Fall 2016.

Visit?: A campus visit from the NWCCU is not required.

Section 2

The Commission determined that the following areas are substantially in compliance with accreditation, but still need improvement.

1

Core themes and indicators of achievement: The NWCCU would like to see a review of UCC's core themes and indicators of achievement, including how the indicators are defined.

2

Shared governance policies and procedures: The Commission called for a comprehensive review and revision of the College's governance policies and procedures.

3 **Campus-wide collaboration to fulfill UCC's mission:** The Commission determined that campus-wide collaboration supporting UCC's mission is adequate, but should be improved to meet accreditation requirements.

4 **Development of resource plan:** While it is not required for accreditation, UCC is in need of a resource plan to reduce wasted resources and maximize the effectiveness of all resources.

Timeline: UCC's response to this area of concern is required as part of an ad hoc report due to the NWCCU in Spring 2017.

Visit?: A campus visit from the NWCCU is required.

Section 3

The *Warning* public sanction requires action and resolution of the following areas of concern.

1 **Administrative turnover:** The NWCCU has deemed UCC's rate of administrative turnover too high for accreditation and in need of improvement.

2 **Administrative and staff positions:** The status of UCC administrative and staff positions must be updated and clarified to meet accreditation requirements.

3 **Assessment of student learning:** UCC's assessment of student learning was determined to not be in compliance with accreditation requirements, and must be improved.

Timeline: UCC's response to this area of concern is required as part of an ad hoc report due to the NWCCU in Fall 2017.

Visit?: A campus visit from the NWCCU is required.

Section 4

Moving forward, we will identify the parties responsible for addressing the aforementioned areas of improvement and outline a timeline for completion. We will also create two standing committees, whose duties will continue beyond the current accreditation cycle:

Accreditation Committee: This committee will be responsible for the ongoing oversight of accreditation matters, including the coordination of responses to the aforementioned areas of improvement.

Institutional Effectiveness Committee: This committee will be responsible for the ongoing oversight of planning, assessment and resource allocation. This group will also be involved in the responses to the aforementioned areas of improvement.