July 23, 2021

Ana Mari Cauce
President
University of Washington
Box 351230
Seattle, WA 98195

Dear President Cauce:

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 23-25, 2021, concerning the Spring 2021 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of University of Washington. 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

**Commendations**
The Commission commends University of Washington for its:

1. Commitment to its innovative, tri-campus structure that offers flexibility, support, and choice to the diverse constituents that it serves as part of its broad institutional mission.
2. Successful and elective designation of all three campuses as Carnegie Community Engagement institutions, demonstrating a commitment to the university’s public mission and collaborative relationships to its local, regional, and global communities.
3. Accelerated implementation of effective on-line pedagogies that maintained standards of excellence in the pivot to remote learning.
4. Commitment to partnerships and efforts across the institution to support black, Indigenous, and students of color (BIPOC).

**Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement**
The Commission recommends that University of Washington:

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2021 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Take advantage of the significant opportunities for increased coordination and communication across the three campuses, including academic advising, transfer of coursework, and student support services, to promote student success, and to leverage all resources available to fulfill and better advance the institution’s mission. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.3)
- Recommendation 2: Spring 2021 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Implement the assessment of General Education, recognizing the stated need for greater clarity, coordination, and articulation of the learning outcomes that characterize an undergraduate education at the University of Washington. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.6)
Future Evaluations

- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2024
  - Recommendation 1: Spring 2021 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
  - Recommendation 2: Spring 2021 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2027
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2028

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. Mac Powell, at mpowell@nwccu.org.

Sincerely,

Sonny Ramaswamy
President

cc: Dr. Philip Reid, Vice Provost, Academic and Student Affairs
    Mr. Joel Benoliel, Board of Regents Chair
    Dr. Laura Woodworth-Ney, Former Provost and Professor