



International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education

December 14, 2015

Gary L. Railsback, MBA, PhD
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dean of the School of Professional Studies
Northwest Christian University
828 East 11th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

Dear Dr. Railsback:

The IACBE Board of Commissioners met on December 8-10, 2015 to reconsider the deferral of action on accreditation of the business programs offered by the School of Professional Studies at Northwest Christian University. The Board of Commissioners had previously deferred action on accreditation pending a required mentoring visit by an IACBE staff member, the submission of a revised outcomes assessment plan, and compliance with Principle 1.1: Outcome Assessment. These conditions have been met, and I am pleased to report that the Board of Commissioners granted accreditation to your business programs accompanied by the notes and observations identified below.

Notes

Notes represent areas in which the institution is not in full compliance with the IACBE's Accreditation Principles. The School of Professional Studies is required to take action on the notes as specified by the IACBE Board of Commissioners, and until the issues identified in the notes have been satisfactorily addressed, the progress made in complying with the commissioners' requirements as stipulated in the notes must be reported each year in your annual report to the IACBE. Unless otherwise indicated herein, the institution has three years to address the issues identified in the notes.

Principle 1.1: Outcomes Assessment

Please review and revise the performance objective for the Peregrine examination to identify one measurable target. The target specified in the revised outcomes assessment plan states "students perform at least in the 50th percentile of the national average for similar schools." The use of the

terminology “50th percentile” and “national average” are inconsistent (unless the distribution of scores is symmetric) and, used together, have no meaning.

Please provide a discussion of the linkages between outcomes assessment and strategic planning. In addition, provide an action plan by November 1, 2016 to make any needed changes and improvements.

In its future interim reports to the IACBE, the School of Professional Studies must submit complete assessment results, including both learning assessment and operational assessment results, based on its revised outcomes assessment plan.

Observations

Observations are suggestions for improvement by the IACBE Board of Commissioners that it believes would be helpful to the School of Professional Studies in achieving excellence in business education. Action on observations is highly recommended, but is not required.

Principle 4.2: Faculty Load

The Board of Commissioners recommends that an annual review of teaching loads for all faculty be undertaken in order to ensure that student learning outcomes are not adversely affected.

Principle 6.1: Financial Resources

The Board of Commissioners recommends that that the university undertake a study to benchmark faculty pay inasmuch as the pay for both full-time and part-time faculty seems to be low compared to other universities in the area.

Accreditation represents a continuing relationship between an institution and its accrediting organization. Specialized program accreditation by the IACBE is dependent upon your institution remaining (i) in good standing with your institutional accrediting body and (ii) in compliance with the IACBE’s Accreditation Principles and policies. Your accreditation is valid for a maximum of five years, through April 2020.

The following notice pertaining to your accreditation status with the IACBE must be used in your official publications, including your institutional website:

Northwest Christian University has received specialized accreditation for its business programs through the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE) located at 11374 Strang Line Road in Lenexa, Kansas, USA. The business programs in the following degrees are accredited by the IACBE:

- *Master of Business Administration*
- *Bachelor of Arts in Accounting*
- *Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with concentrations in:*
 - *Management*
 - *Marketing*

- *Bachelor of Science in Accounting*
- *Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with concentrations in:*
 - *Management*
 - *Marketing*

The School of Professional Studies will be publicly recognized for achieving accreditation at the 2016 IACBE Annual Conference and Assembly Meeting on April 5-8, 2016 in Memphis, Tennessee, USA. We very much look forward to seeing you there.

We encourage the business faculty from the School of Professional Studies at Northwest Christian University to be actively involved in the IACBE's professional development programs and activities, including participation in the IACBE's Annual Conference and Assembly Meetings, regional conferences, and workshops, and serving as site-visit team peer reviewers.

Should you have any questions or if I can be of assistance to you, please contact me through the IACBE's headquarters office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kerry Calnan".

Ms. Kerry Calnan, Chair
Board of Commissioners