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January 31, 2013

Dr. Kris Bulcroft
President
Capilano University
2055 Purcell Way
North Vancouver, BC
CANADA V7J 3H5

Dear President ~~Bulcroft~~^{Kris}:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that at its January 9-10, 2013, meeting, the Commission granted initial accreditation to Capilano University at the associate degree level and the baccalaureate degree level. Congratulations on receiving this recognition. We are aware of the many 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 Capilano University is September 1, 2012.

The accredited status of Capilano University will be posted to the Commission's website.

The policy of the Commission is not to grant accreditation for a definite number of years. Instead, accreditation must be reaffirmed periodically. Under the seven-year accreditation cycle, the following reviews are scheduled for Capilano University:

Fall 2013: Year One *Mission and Core Themes* Self-Evaluation Report
Fall 2015: Year Three *Resources and Capacity* Self-Evaluation Report and Visit
Fall 2019: Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Self-Evaluation Report and Visit

In granting initial accreditation, the Commission requests that Capilano University prepare an addendum to its Fall 2013 Year One *Mission and Core Themes* Self-Evaluation Report to address Recommendations 1 and 3 of the Fall 2012 Comprehensive Initial Accreditation Peer-Evaluation Report. In addition, the Commission requests an addendum to the University's Fall 2015 Year Three *Resources and Capacity* Self-Evaluation Report to address Recommendations 2 and 4 of the Fall 2012 Comprehensive Initial Accreditation Peer-Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your convenience.

In making these requests, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Fall 2012 Comprehensive Initial Accreditation Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Capilano University is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement.

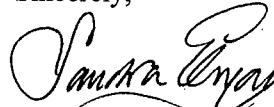
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Again, congratulations on this achievement. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We will write in spring 2013 regarding the Fall 2013 Year One *Mission and Core Themes* Self-Evaluation Report.

All the best for a rewarding New Year.

Sincerely,



Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosure: Recommendations

cc: Dr. Bill Gibson, Interim Vice-President, Academics and Provost
Dr. Robin Brayne, Chair, Board of Governors
Ms. Cheryl Wenezeki-Yolland, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education, BC
Ms. Carol Griffiths, Chief, Accrediting Agency Evaluation Unit, USDOE
Ms. Jeanne Burke, Editor, Higher Education Publications
Mr. Paul Basken, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

Comprehensive Initial Accreditation Report
Fall 2012
Capilano University
Recommendations

1. Capilano University has identified four Core Themes in response to Standard 1.B. to represent essential elements of its mission. The evaluation committee recommends that the University revisit its Core Themes to ensure that they “individually manifest essential elements of its mission and collectively encompass its mission” to effectively guide core theme planning (Standard 1.B).
2. The evaluation committee recognizes the significant work the institution has done to initiate a culture of assessment, but this work is still in progress. The committee recommends that the institution ensure that all University functions and units have outcomes assessment plans established, implemented, and published, and that the results of these assessments are evaluated and lead to improvements. In particular, the evaluation committee recommends a focus on student learning outcomes for all academic courses and programs (Standards 2.C.2, 4.A.2, 4.A.3, 4.B.1, and 4.B.2).
3. The evaluation committee recommends that the University establish a written policy that specifically outlines what arrangements the University will make to ensure that students enrolled in a program have an opportunity to complete their program in a timely manner with a minimum of disruption were the University to eliminate a program or significantly change program requirements (Standard 2.A.16 and 2.D.4).
4. The evaluation committee recommends that the University take the steps necessary to ensure that all programs include a robust general education component with identified and assessable learning objectives. Those steps should include the creation of a consistently strong connection between institutional student learning outcomes and program-level learning outcomes, and the development of the means for determining whether, at a University level, institutional learning outcomes have been achieved (Standards 2.C.9, 2.C.10, and 4.A.3).