



February 12, 2021

Daniel M. White
Chancellor
University of Alaska Fairbanks
310 Signers' Hall
Fairbanks, AK 99775

Dear Chancellor White:

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 January 13-15, 2021, concerning the Fall 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of University of Alaska Fairbanks. 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

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation

- Recommendation 1: Fall 2011 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Fulfilled
- Recommendation 2: Fall 2011 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Continued as Needs Improvement
- Recommendation 3: Fall 2011 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Continued as Needs Improvement

Commendations

The Commission commends University of Alaska Fairbanks for its:

1. Masterful and creative job of responding to the pandemic crisis with alternative teaching and research modalities and safety measures.
2. E-Campus providing alternative teaching modalities during the COVID-19 crisis; this well-established program was optimally placed to respond to the pandemic, even in areas with low bandwidth.
3. Research organization with multiple interdisciplinary institutes has been effective in obtaining large federal grants for research focused on Alaska's unique geography and natural resources.
4. Its commitment to all Alaska communities, its application of research to problems faced by rural Alaskans, and its dissemination of programs and knowledge through its campus sites, extension efforts, and eCampus network.
5. Its culture of cooperation to search for means to fulfill missions effectively in a time of severe disruptions.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that University of Alaska Fairbanks:

- Recommendation 1: Fall 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Fully execute program assessment plan, and engage the departments in the assessment process in order to consistently evaluate student learning and to drive program improvement. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.5;1.C.7;1.D.4)
- Recommendation 2: Fall 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Evaluate goals, resource allocation processes, and institutional capacity to assure adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of its programs and services, with thorough stakeholder input. (2020 Standard(s) 2.A.4;2.D.2;2.E.2;2.F.3)
- Recommendation 3: Fall 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Implement program assessment using disaggregated performance data and publicize performance widely. (2020 Standard(s) 1.D.2;1.D.3)
- Recommendation 4: Fall 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Embrace employee equity and inclusion and foster a sense of belonging across student, faculty and staff stakeholders. (2020 Standard(s) 2.D.2;1.B.3)

Future Evaluations

- Mid-Cycle Review Fall 2023
 - Recommendation 3: Fall 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 4: Fall 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 1: Fall 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 2: Fall 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Fall 2026
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Fall 2027

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. Alexandra Fitts, Vice Provost and Accreditation Liaison Officer
Dr. Marc Johnson, President Emeritus, University of Nevada, Reno