January 27, 2010

Dr. Robert W. Kustra
President
Boise State University
1910 University Drive
Boise, ID 83725

Dear President Kustra:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Boise State University has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Fall 2009 Comprehensive Evaluation. Congratulations on receiving this continued recognition.

The following actions taken by the Board of Commissioners are based on the standards and process in effect at the time of the evaluation visit. You will be notified under separate cover of any modifications to these actions resulting from the conversion to the new standards and process.

The policy of the Commission is not to grant accreditation for a definite number of years. Instead, accreditation must be reaffirmed periodically. In the case of Boise State University, the Commission requests that the institution submit a progress report in spring 2011 to address Recommendations 4, 5, 7 and 8 of the Fall 2009 Comprehensive Evaluation Report. In addition, the Commission requests a focused interim report and visit in fall 2012 to address Recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 6 of the Fall 2009 Comprehensive Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Fall 2009 Comprehensive Evaluation Report are areas where Boise State University is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but needs improvement.

The Commission finds that Recommendation 4 of the Fall 2009 Comprehensive Evaluation Report is an area where Boise State University does not meet the Commission's criteria for accreditation. According to U.S. Department of Education Regulation 34 CFR 602.20 and Commission Policy A-18, Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period (enclosed), the Commission requires that Boise State University take appropriate action to ensure that Recommendation 4 of the Fall 2009 Comprehensive Evaluation Report is addressed and resolved within the prescribed two-year period.

In the unlikely event the Commission should conclude that an institution is in danger of being unable to fulfill its mission and goals or to continue to meet the Eligibility Requirements or Standards, the Commission reserves the right to request that the institution submit a report or host one or more evaluators for a special review.
The Commission commends the University for its extensive planning efforts and its use of strategic planning to guide the transition toward achieving its vision as “a metropolitan research university of distinction.” The Commission applauds the University’s strong tradition of collegiality and dedication among administration, faculty, staff and students, as well as its extraordinary success in establishing collaborative arrangements and partnerships to enhance the institution’s instructional, research, and service programs. Further, the Commission finds laudable the exceptional nature of the University’s information technology support services. In addition, the Commission commends the administration and University Library for its responsive and creative efforts to provide needed access to electronic resources. Moreover, the Commission finds noteworthy the efforts of the administration and the leadership and staff of the Division of Extended Studies for assisting in the transformative changes resulting from the creation of the College of Western Idaho. Lastly, the Commission commends the University for its beautiful campus, the design and planning of buildings, and the creation of an environment conducive to effective teaching, learning, and research that is thoughtfully woven into the urban fabric of Boise.

Again, congratulations on receiving this recognition.

We will write in fall 2010 in regard to the Spring 2011 Progress Report, and again in spring 2012 regarding the Fall 2012 Focused Interim Report.

Best wishes for a rewarding year.

Sincerely,

Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosures: Recommendations, Policy A-18

cc: Dr. Jim Munger, Associate Vice President for Academic Planning
    Mr. Paul Agidius, President, Boise State University Board of Trustees
    Dr. Mike Rush, Executive Director, Idaho State Board of Education