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PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Ralph A. Wolf

March 9, 2010

Kenneth J. Sobaski
President
TUI University
5665 Plaza Drive, Third Floor
Cypress, CA 90630

Dear President Sobaski:

At its meeting February 17-19, 2010 the Commission reviewed the site visit report from the Capacity and Preparatory Review (CPR) that was conducted at TUI University (TUIU) on October 6-9, 2009. The Commission also had access to the report submitted by the University in preparation for the visit and your December 14, 2009 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to meet with you in person. The opportunity to discuss the team report and events arising subsequent to the visit was most helpful.

The TUIU Institutional Proposal outlined a plan to respond to the WASC Standards of Accreditation and undertake a set of studies. The team found the report difficult to follow and lacking in reflection and supportive evidence beyond assertions. The site visit confirmed that considerable effort had been undertaken by a large number of people in support of the University's CPR report. The University will need to improve the quality of its Educational Effectiveness Review (EER) report to make it a more effective foundation for the Educational Effectiveness Review.

Since the team visit, a number of significant changes have occurred at TUIU. A new CFO has been hired. The founders of the University have taken new positions at another institution and will no longer serve as chair and a member of the board. Along with them, other senior level administrators will be leaving TUIU. The EER team will need to assess the impact of these changes, including the recruitment of new members of the board of trustees.

The University has transitioned effectively from being a branch of Touro College to an independent, for-profit institution. Enrollment has grown and the faculty has increased in numbers. The University operates a comprehensive learning-centered model designed to serve and support students, primarily drawn from the military. A number of the studies undertaken for the CPR indicate that there is a growing body of evidence supporting the quality of educational programs and the value of the "robust learning model" for the students the University serves.

At the same time, the evaluation team identified a number of very important areas that need to be addressed at the EER. The Commission has extended the date of

the next site visit, as you have also requested, so that the University will have more time to implement its responses to these issues. In accepting the CPR team report, the Commission endorsed the findings, commendations and recommendations of the evaluation team. The Commission concurs with the listing of major recommendations of the CPR team, repeated here:

1. Gather and publish disaggregated data and focus on understanding retention and graduation data. (CFR 1.2; 2.10)
2. Make significant progress in assessing student learning at the programmatic and institutional level. (CFR 2.6)
3. Make significant progress in implementing the University's comprehensive program review process. (CFR 2.7)
4. Work in a collaborative and inclusive manner to put in place structures that result in an effective voice for both the faculty and staff. (CFR 3.11)
5. Develop a multi-year contract structure for full-time faculty that will ensure increased faculty security and continuity. (CFRs 1.4, 3.3)
6. Engage in a comprehensive and collaborative process of strategic planning that results in an articulated integrated plan for the future, aligning academic, personnel, fiscal, physical, and technological needs with the University's strategic objectives and priorities. (CFR 4.2)

In addition, the Commission concurs with the concluding statement in the CPR report: "While the CPR report was structured around the standards, the team found insufficient reference to supporting evidence connected to each standard's Criteria for Review. The team strongly recommends that TUIU in its EER Report clearly address the Criteria for Review with analysis of evidence rather than the conclusionary approach present in the CPR report." WASC staff can provide you with models where institutions have done this well.

The Commission acted to:

1. Receive the report of the Capacity and Preparatory Review team and continue the accreditation of TUI University.
2. Reschedule the Educational Effectiveness Review to spring 2011.
3. Request a meeting with you and those responsible for the EER report to discuss how the University plans to improve the quality of its report.

In extending the timeframe until the Educational Effectiveness Review, the Commission hopes to provide the institution with time to build upon its progress to date, so that by the time of the Educational Effectiveness Review, TUI University will be able to demonstrate that it has effectively addressed all of the recommendations listed above.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of TUIU's governing board in one week. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be widely disseminated throughout the institution to promote further engagement and improvement, and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in them.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that the University undertook in preparing for and supporting this accreditation review. WASC is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while assuring public accountability, and we are grateful for your continued support of our process. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

R -- Redacted by HELP Committee

President and Executive Director

cc: **R -- Redacted by HELP** , Commission Chair
R -- Redacted by , ALO
R -- Redacted by , Board Chair
Members of the CPR team

Confidential

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