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Serving the common good by assuring and enhancing the quality of higher learning

July 27, 2010

Dr. Jerry B. Farley
President
Washburn University of Topeka
1700 SW College Avenue
Topeka, KS 66621-0001

Dear President Farley:

The progress report you submitted to our office has now been reviewed. A staff analysis of the report is enclosed.

On behalf of the Commission, I accept the report on improvements in library. A progress report focused on implementation of affiliation with Kaw Area Technical School is due 7/11/2011. The institution's next comprehensive evaluation is scheduled for 2018 - 2019.

I am also enclosing a copy of the institution's Statement of Affiliation Status, which reflects the actions I have taken on behalf of the Commission. If you have any questions about this analysis or any other evaluation matters, please let me know. I can be reached via email at rappleson@hlcommission.org or by voice at (800) 621-7440 x 122.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert R. Appleson Ph.D.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert R. Appleson, Ph.D
Vice President for Accreditation Relations

Enclosures



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STAFF ANALYSIS OF INSTITUTIONAL REPORT

DATE: July 20, 2010

STAFF: Robert R. Appleson

REVIEWED BY: Katherine C. Delaney

INSTITUTION: Washburn University of Topeka, Topeka, KS

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Jerry B. Farley, President

PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTION RE: REPORT: A progress report due on 7/01/10 focused on improvements in library.

ITEMS ADDRESSED IN REPORT: The office of the Commission received Washburn University of Topeka's report on the above topic on 6/30/10.

STAFF ANALYSIS: Washburn University hosted a comprehensive visit in 2008. One of the outcomes of the visit was that the visiting team recommended this progress report on "*improvements in facilities, funding, service and staffing for Mabee Library.*" The team gave the following as part of the rationale for its recommendation:

As acknowledged in the self study, the funding, staffing, and physical space for Mabee Library has been a continuing concern for Washburn University. Throughout the visit, the team heard concerns from students, faculty, staff and the administrative leadership of the library about the facility and services of Mabee Library. While planning exercises have taken place in the past and there has been some improvement in the staffing of the library since the last comprehensive visit, issues raised during the visit make it clear that there are still major problems to be addressed. Funding for the library, while having increased in the past 10 years, currently sits at approximately 2.8% of the university budget. This has not been sufficient to reach the goal stated in the strategic plan that was produced in response to the last comprehensive visit for the creation of an 'information commons.'

Washburn University submitted an excellent progress report that gave evidence of significant progress in some respects for the Mabee Library. The report was accompanied by a strategic plan for the library (2008-2010) that gave clear articulation to the concerns and potential remedies for the library concerns. The University strategic plan was also appended to the progress report, which indicated that the Mabee Library was third in line at the University for "addition and/or renovation," (after a one-stop student services center and a new law school).

The Mabee Library continues to be led by an interim dean in the last year of a 3-year appointment. A permanent Dean of Libraries is scheduled to be in place no later than December 31, 2010. The search has been conducted and the timeline calls for an appointment of a permanent Dean momentarily.

There has been a net gain of 1.5 FTE librarians since the comprehensive visit. There have also been some realignments that have made for greater effectiveness of the library staff, according to the progress report. One staff member was reclassified to Technology Support Technician, for example, and another was reclassified to Electronic Resources Manager.

Beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year, reference services were increased by 20 weekly hours to provide research assistance to students during all hours the library is open. In 2009, Mabee Library served 140,751 users in person, an increase of 20% over 2008.

The library website was also modernized after considerable research of library websites. The entire site was revamped. The digital presence of the website was further enhanced with the implementation of a new catalog interface, Encore. The Library also introduced a Web 2.0 tool, LibGuides, designed to assist students in learning to use library facilities.

In response to the team's concerns about technology in the library, the following changes have been made:

- 69 computers were added. Students can now check out 25 new Windows laptops, six new iMacs, and four new Macbooks. In addition, four new iPads are available for students. 75 computers are now available for student use.
- The Electronics classroom is available for classroom instruction, or for student use when the classroom is not in use.
- Wireless computing network was installed in Mabee Library.
- Three high-definition Sony Bravia televisions were installed on the main level of the Library.

The Library operating systems have also been upgraded and new software purchased. A new digital microform reader was purchased, as well as a new high-definition book scanning unit. Distance education students now have access to an increasing array of materials and librarian resources that were previously available only to on-campus students.

The progress report noted the reconfiguration of furniture, painting, reorganization of space, display areas, new furniture, group study rooms, etc., that have enhanced the physical facility of the library over the past three years.

In spite of the 10% budget reductions experienced by the University over the past two years, the library has been spared. There has been a 426% increase in spending on electronic resources in the library.

In summary, Washburn University has demonstrated a commitment to the Mabee Library over the past three years. It is clear that the library and the University have been well-served by the service of the interim Dean.

The changes and improvements noted in this progress report appear to have been well-selected and effective in nature, even if quite modest (which is understandable in the current economic climate). At some point in the near future, Washburn University will be called upon to invest significantly in the Mabee Library in order to service the community and its students as effectively as possible.

STAFF ACTION: Accept the report focused on improvements in library. A progress report focused on implementation of affiliation with Kaw Area Technical School is due 7/11/2011. The institution's next comprehensive evaluation is scheduled for 2018 - 2019.

STATEMENT OF AFFILIATION STATUS

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
1700 SW College Avenue
Topeka, KS 66621-0001

Affiliation Status: Candidate: Not Applicable
Accreditation: (1913- .)

PEAQ PARTICIPANT

Nature of Organization

Legal Status: Public
Degrees Awarded: A, B, M, S, D

Conditions of Affiliation:

Stipulations on Affiliation Status: None.

Approval of New Additional Locations: Prior Commission approval required.

Approval of Distance Education Degrees: Prior Commission approval required for distance education programs other than the Bachelor of Health Sciences, BS in Nursing, BS in Criminal Justice, BAS in Human Services, the BA in Integrated Studies, and BAS Technology Administration.

Reports Required: Contingency Report: A report due on necessary approvals for affiliation with Kaw Area Technical School within 60 days of final action by the Kansas Board of Regents.
Progress Report: 07/01/2011; A report on implementation of affiliation with Kaw Area Technical School.

Other Visits Scheduled: None.

Summary of Commission Review

Year of Last Comprehensive Evaluation: 2007 - 2008
Year for Next Comprehensive Evaluation: 2018 - 2019
Date of Last Action: 12/01/2008

Name Change:

Washburn College to Washburn Municipal University (1941) to Washburn University of Topeka (1952)

Academy Participation:

Participating in the Academy for Assessment of Student Learning.