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January 8, 2021

Dr. Michael S. Roth
President
Wesleyan University
229 High Street, South College Building
Middletown, CT 06459

Dear President Roth:

I am pleased to inform you that at its meeting on November 20, 2020 the New England Commission of Higher Education considered the distance education expedited review report submitted by Wesleyan University and took the following action:

that the report submitted by Wesleyan University be accepted, and the institution be granted approval to offer its current courses and academic programs via distance education through Spring 2023;

that the institution be reminded that any plans to offer new programs 50% or more online need to be submitted to the Commission for approval prior to implementation;

that the comprehensive evaluation scheduled for Fall 2022 be confirmed;

that, in addition to the information included in self-studies, as well as the matters specified in our letter of December 7, 2017, the self-study prepared in advance of the Fall 2022 comprehensive evaluation include an update on the institution's success in offering its current courses and academic programs via distance education.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its action.

The distance education expedited review report submitted by Wesleyan University was accepted and the institution granted approval to offer its current courses and academic programs via distance education through Spring 2023 because the Commission finds the proposed activity to be in compliance with the *Standards for Accreditation* and relevant Commission policies.

The Commission thanks Wesleyan University (Wesleyan) for its detailed distance education expedited review report. We appreciate learning that the University enhanced technology in 64 classrooms by adding high-definition cameras, microphones, and "classroom capture technology," and conducted workshops to train faculty and staff on how to use the equipment. Further, expert faculty from other institutions helped train faculty, and Wesleyan secured a Davis grant to launch a remote Teaching Cohort program. Support – including library and career services, writing support, and peer advisors – was made available to students who had transitioned to the online modality, and we particularly note with approval that

Wesleyan used the results of faculty and student surveys to “prepare for a more effective fall.”

Given Wesleyan University’s limited experience in offering courses and programs via distance education, we remind you that any plans to offer new programs 50% or more online need to be submitted to the Commission for approval prior to implementation, in keeping with the Commission’s Policy on Substantive Change.

The Commission confirms the comprehensive evaluation scheduled for Fall 2022 and asks that, in addition to the matters specified in our letters of December 7, 2017, the institution provide in the self-study an update on its success in offering its current courses and academic programs via distance education. We are guided here by our standards on *The Academic Program* and *Educational Effectiveness*:

The institution offering programs and courses for abbreviated or concentrated time periods or via distance or correspondence learning demonstrates that students completing these programs or courses acquire levels of knowledge, understanding, and competencies equivalent to those achieved in similar programs offered in more traditional time periods and modalities. Programs and courses are designed to ensure an opportunity for reflection and for analysis of the subject matter (4.45).

The institution defines measures of student success and levels of achievement appropriate to its mission, modalities and locations of instruction, and student body, including any specifically recruited populations. These measures include rates of progression, retention, transfer, and graduation; default and loan repayment rates; licensure passage rates; and employment (8.6).

We remind you that the *Standards for Accreditation* have undergone the mid-course review, and the new Standards went into effect on January 1, 2021. Therefore, all reports submitted after that date, including the self-study prepared for Wesleyan University’s Fall 2022 comprehensive evaluation, should reference the 2021 Standards.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the report submitted by Wesleyan University and hopes its preparation has contributed to institutional improvement. We appreciate your cooperation with the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education in New England.

You are encouraged to share this letter with all of the institution’s constituencies. It is Commission policy to inform the chairperson of the institution’s governing board of action on its accreditation status. In a few days we will be sending a copy of this letter to Mr. John Frank. The institution is free to release information about the evaluation and the Commission’s action to others, in accordance with the enclosed policy on Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions.

If you have any questions about the Commission’s action, please contact Lawrence M. Schall, President of the Commission.

Sincerely,



George W. Tetler

GWT/sjp

Enclosure
cc: Mr. John Frank