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January 29, 2016

Dr. Birgitte Ryslinge
President
Oregon Coast Community College
400 SE College Way
Newport, OR 97366

Dear President Ryslinge:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to inform you that at its January 6-8, 2016, meeting, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities accepted Oregon Coast Community College's Application for Consideration for Candidacy.

As a result of this action, the College may now proceed with preparing a comprehensive self-evaluation report and, at a mutually agreed time, host an onsite visit by an evaluation committee for consideration for Candidacy. Please refer to pages 8-13 of the *Accreditation Handbook* (2015 edition; located on the NWCCU website: www.nwccu.org under Publications) for information on the self-evaluation process and evaluation committee visit. The self-evaluation report should be commensurate with and reflect the current stage of institutional development. Please refer to the Standards for Accreditation section of the *Accreditation Handbook*, pages 22-36. Although an institution preparing for Candidacy is not expected to have the maturity and stability of an accredited institution, the Standards for Accreditation do provide directives and a clear basis for the institution to demonstrate how it is organized, staffed, and supported to accomplish its purposes and to demonstrate its potential to achieve accreditation within five years.

Following completion and submission of the self-evaluation report, which may not occur earlier than one year or later than three years after the Commission has accepted the institution's Application for Consideration for Candidacy, an onsite evaluation is conducted. Accordingly, the onsite visit for Oregon Coast Community College may be conducted no sooner than fall 2016 and no later than fall 2018. At least six months prior to completion of its self-evaluation report, the College must secure approval from the President of the Commission before the visit can be scheduled. The self-evaluation report is to be completed and ready for mailing at least eight weeks prior to the campus visit. Copies of the self-evaluation report are to be mailed from the College to the Commission and to each evaluation committee member. The size of the evaluation committee will depend on a number of relevant factors including, but not limited to, the institution's enrollment and number of locations where the programs are offered. The current fee for a Candidacy evaluation is \$2,000 per evaluator.

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The process of self-evaluation is critically important to the institution's successful progress toward accreditation. It is a matter that should be taken very seriously by the College. It is helpful if the institution views the self-evaluation report as an analysis by the board, the faculty, the staff and other stakeholders of the College's resources and effectiveness in fulfilling its mission and goals. In the self-evaluation report, faculty, administrators, and the governing board indicate the vision they have for the institution and reflect on their own appraisal of the institution's present accomplishments and potential. The goal of the self-evaluation report should be to understand and assess the College's performance in relation to published outcomes and results. To facilitate the institution's preparation of the self-evaluation report, a Commission staff member conducts a preliminary visit to assist the institution.

The responsibility of the evaluation committee in conducting the Candidacy visit will be to determine whether or not Oregon Coast Community College has clearly demonstrated that it meets the Commission's Eligibility Requirements. At this juncture, the Commission determined that the College appears to meet the Eligibility Requirements for Candidacy based upon its written application. After validating that judgment, additional tasks of the committee will be to determine that the institution: (1) appears adequately organized, staffed and sufficiently supported to offer the educational programs and services as published in the College's catalog in order to meet its purposes; (2) appears to have the potential for meeting enrollment projections, financial projections, and for achieving institutional stability in order to qualify for accreditation within the five-year Candidacy period; and (3) appears to have the potential to meet all accreditation standards and related policies within the five-year period.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance as the College proceeds with its initial self-evaluation.

Best wishes for a rewarding and fulfilling new year.

Sincerely,


Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

cc: Ms. Chris Chandler, Chair, Board of Education, Oregon Coast Community College
Ms. Sylvia Kelley, Interim President, Portland Community College
Dr. Christine Chairsell, Portland Community College District Vice-President for Academic
and Student Affairs