



## **Recommendations Fall 2017 Interim Candidacy Evaluation in Need of Improvement**

The Commission recommends that the institution:

1. Continue to improve its definition of mission fulfillment by articulating measurable institutional accomplishments or outcomes that represent an acceptable threshold or extent of mission fulfillment. While noting a useful reduction in the number of Core Theme objectives and indicators, the Commission finds that several of the indicators remain framed as inputs rather than measurable accomplishments or outcomes (Standard 1.A).
2. Demonstrate that the GE component of its undergraduate programs include a recognizable core of general education that represents an integration of basic knowledge and methodology of the humanities and fine arts, mathematical and natural sciences, and social sciences, to help students develop the breadth and depth of intellect necessary to become more effective learners and to prepare them for a productive life of work, citizenship, and personal fulfillment (Standard 2.C.9, 2.C.10).
3. Develop a technology infrastructure replacement plan encompassing all locations to ensure its ability to continue supporting its operations, programs and services. The Commission finds that funding has been recently dedicated to the replacement and maintenance of technology infrastructure in TRU's most recent budget; however, formalized planning for infrastructure replacement has not been completed (Standard 2.G.8).
4. Build upon its efforts to document student learning outcomes by developing appropriate measurements of student learning, analyzing assessment results, and implementing action plans in a cycle of continuous improvement (Standard 4.A.3 and 4.B.2).
5. Articulate a policy governing the academic freedoms and responsibilities of all University employees (Standard 2.A.27).
6. Document its system of internal financial controls (Standard 2.F.4). TRU's Board Manual (Chapter 12, Audit Committee Term of Reference, section 4.3) requires that the audit committee obtain reasonable assurances that TRU has implemented appropriate systems of internal control. Additionally, NWCCU's minimum requirements of Standard 2.F.4 include having a "description of internal financial controls."

7. Document the relationship between its general operations and its ancillary operations funds, including whether general operations funds are permitted to support ancillary enterprises or the use of funds from ancillary enterprises may be used to support general operations (Standard 2.F.6).

### **Commendations Fall 2017 Interim Candidacy Evaluation**

The Commission commends Thompson Rivers University in particular for the following:

1. Successful programs that have engaged and supported hundreds of undergraduate students in research, as demonstrated by the annual Undergraduate Research and Innovation Conference, the Undergraduate Research Experience Awards, the Undergraduate Research Ambassadors Program, the Undergraduate Research Apprenticeships, and the Undergraduate Research Assistants program. Institutional commitment to research is also evidenced by recent growth in external funding, Core Theme 4, and multiple indicators of local, provincial and national support for the institution's growing research agenda.
2. TRU's commitment to serving its local communities. Evidence of this commitment includes a consistent message of sensitivity to and appreciation for the indigenous cultures in the region it serves as well as development of education and training programs responsive to community needs, such as the professional science master's degrees offered on the Kamloops' campus and the one-year certificate programs offered at Williams Lake.
3. TRU's agility and intentionality with which it has enacted service, policy and process improvements, as demonstrated by the institution's response to student complaints and frustrations concerning registration and course access. Recent improvements to streamline the registration process, to provide student-facing degree audit technologies, and to provide more centrally located and accessible enrollment support, represent informed and appropriate responses to the need for documented improvement in this area.