



Founded in 1885

NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, INC.
COMMISSION ON INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RECEIVED

JAN 29 2014

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

JEAN A. WYLD, Chair (2015)
Springfield College

PATRICIA MAGUIRE MESERVEY, Vice Chair (2014)
Salem State University

DAVID F. FINNEY (2014)
Champlain College

DAVID S. GRAVES (2014)
Laureate Education Inc.

R. BRUCE HITCHNER (2014)
Tufts University

MARY ELLEN JUKOSKI (2014)
Mitchell College

DAVID L. LEVINSON (2014)
Norwalk Community College

BRUCE L. MALLORY (2014)
University of New Hampshire

CHRISTOPHER J. SULLIVAN (2014)
Concord, NH

DAVID P. ANGEL (2015)
Clark University

G. TIMOTHY BOWMAN (2015)
Harvard University

DAVID E. A. CARSON (2015)
Hartford, CT

THOMAS L. G. DWYER (2015)
Johnson & Wales University

JOHN F. GABRANSKI (2015)
Haydenville, MA

WILLIAM F. KENNEDY (2015)
Boston, MA

KAREN L. MUNCASTER (2015)
Boston Architectural College

CHRISTINE ORTIZ (2015)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

JON S. OXMAN (2015)
Auburn, ME

JACQUELINE D. PETERSON (2015)
College of the Holy Cross

ROBERT L. PURA (2015)
Greenfield Community College

REV. BRIAN J. SHANLEY, O.P. (2015)
Providence College

TIMOTHY J. DONOVAN (2016)
Vermont State Colleges

JEFFREY R. GODLEY (2016)
Groton, CT

LILY S. HSU (2016)
MCPS University

JAY V. KAHN (2016)
Keene State College

WILFREDO NIEVES (2016)
Capital Community College

LINDA S. WELLS (2016)
Boston University

President of the Commission
BARBARA E. BRITTINGHAM
bbrittingham@neasc.org

Senior Vice President of the Commission
PATRICIA M. O'BRIEN, SND
pobrien@neasc.org

Vice President of the Commission
CAROL L. ANDERSON
canderson@neasc.org

Vice President of the Commission
ROBERT C. FROH
rfroh@neasc.org

Vice President of the Commission
PAULA A. HARBECKE
pharbecke@neasc.org

Vice President of the Commission
TALA KHUDAIRI
tkhudairi@neasc.org

January 23, 2014

Dr. Kumble R. Subbaswamy
Chancellor
University of Massachusetts Amherst
181 Presidents Drive
Amherst, MA 01003-9313

Dear Chancellor Subbaswamy:

I am pleased to inform you that at its meeting on November 21, 2013, the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education considered the fifth-year interim report submitted by University of Massachusetts Amherst, as well as the report of the visiting evaluator, and voted to take the following action:

that the fifth-year interim report submitted by University of Massachusetts Amherst be accepted;

that the report regarding the University's off-campus instructional locations in Springfield, Massachusetts and Hancock, Massachusetts be accepted, inclusion of the locations within the institution's accreditation be confirmed, and the University's general approval for off-campus locations within the United States be confirmed;

that the comprehensive evaluation scheduled for Fall 2018 be confirmed.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its action.

The fifth-year interim report submitted by University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMass Amherst) was accepted because it responded to the concerns raised by the Commission in its letter of April 14, 2010, addressed each of the eleven standards, and included a reflective essay on student learning and success.

The Commission commends UMass Amherst for a thorough, well-written interim report. We note with approval the University's success in collaboratively establishing its new strategic plan, *Innovation and Impact: Renewing the Promise of the Public Research University*, with oversight from the Joint Task Force on Strategic Oversight. The plan demonstrates a coherent approach to achieving the institution's long-range goal to attain a sustainable and balanced operating budget, including strategies for revenue enhancement and operating efficiencies. We are pleased to learn that total deferred maintenance has been progressively reduced from \$2.0 billion in 2009

to \$1.6 billion in 2012, with plans to reach \$1.2 billion by 2017. This has been achieved by replacing or renewing older facilities, direct targeting of deferred maintenance, and policy changes to designate 3.5% of all new capital construction project costs for maintenance; we further note with favor the University's goal to reduce its deferred maintenance backlog by 10% by FY2016. We are gratified to learn of the institution's commitment to "increase the depth and coherence" of the General Education program by changing the course credits from 3 to 4 in the Social, Biological and Physical World area, and by creating the Integrative Experience (upper-division of general education), and we take favorable note of increased learning gains demonstrated in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). We are pleased to learn of the success of the new institutional enrollment strategy, as evidenced by an increase of \$12 million in net revenue in the past three years, 25% growth in out-of-state enrollment, and an increase in the six-year graduation rate of ALANA students and URM (under-represented minority) students to 66.2% and 61% in 2012, respectively, compared to 60% and 56% in 2009. We take favorable note of the success of the *UMass Rising* fundraising campaign, which has raised \$200 million toward its \$300 million goal for 2016.

The Commission commends UMass Amherst for its continued "commitment to assessment" and for conducting "broad and deep" assessment processes. The University's Joint Task Force on Accountability has been empowered to gather and assess evidence of the successes and challenges faced by the University. We note with favor that 96% of the undergraduate programs at UMass Amherst have articulated learning outcomes. The institution uses several means to measure student success, including: VSA, CLA, NSSE, analysis of "High Impact Practices," benchmarking, and post-graduation surveys, which indicate that 59% of the graduates in 2012 had full-time jobs at graduation and 23% were attending graduate or professional school. The University has also used the results of its general education review, assessment of Integrative Experience students and instructors, and academic program-level assessment for improvement.

The Commission confirmed inclusion of the instructional sites at Van Sickle Middle School in Springfield, Massachusetts and Hancock Shaker Village (HSV) in Hancock, Massachusetts within the University's accreditation and confirmed the institution's general approval for off-campus instructional locations within the United States because the materials submitted provided evidence that the University manages its off-campus instructional locations in a manner in substantial compliance with Commission standards and policies. The programs offered in Springfield and Hancock are consistent with the University's mission and enhance both outreach and educational quality. We are pleased to learn that the well-established immersion teacher preparation program, "180 Days in Springfield," offered as part of the Master's degree in Education, has a high student satisfaction rating and that the graduates are highly sought out for employment in urban districts. We join the visiting evaluator in taking favorable note of the "mutually beneficial" Historic Preservation concentration of the Master of Science in Design offered at HSV and are gratified to learn of students' "informal reports" of the positive benefits of the program to their careers.

The scheduling of a comprehensive evaluation in Fall 2018 is consistent with Commission policy requiring each accredited institution to undergo a comprehensive evaluation at least once every ten years.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the reports submitted by University of Massachusetts Amherst and the visiting evaluator and hopes that the evaluation process has contributed to institutional improvement. It appreciates your cooperation in the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education in New England.

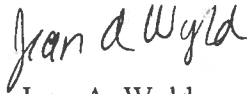
You are encouraged to share this letter with all of the institution's constituencies. It is Commission policy to inform the chairperson of the institution's governing board of action on its accreditation status. In a few days we will be sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Henry Thomas.

Dr. Kumble R. Subbaswamy
January 23, 2014
Page 3

The institution is free to release information about the report and the Commission's action to others, in accordance with Commission policy.

If you have any questions about the Commission's action, please contact Barbara Brittingham, President of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Jean A. Wyld

JAW/jm

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Henry Thomas
Evaluator