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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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March 1, 2015

Dr. Mary Stansbury
Chair, Committee on Accreditation
Office of Accreditation
50 East Huron St.
Chicago, IL

Dear Dr. Stansbury

In response to your letter as Chair of the CoA of November 21, 2015, we attach our annual Conditional Status Progress report to meet the March 1, 2015 deadline. As outlined in this report, we have provided an update on the development of the assessment framework and its integration into the planning process (Standard I.2); and an update on collection of assessment data and use of the data in the program's planning and decision-making processes (Standard II.7).

We understand that the conditional status was assigned to our program due to the immediate need to make changes to comply with ALA Accreditation Standards. In the original correspondence it was indicated that changes were necessary to comply with the following:

- Standard I, and in particular Standard 1.2 that "Program objectives are stated in terms of student learning outcomes ..."
- Standard II, and in particular Standard II.7 that "evaluation of the curriculum includes assessment of students' achievements..."
- Standard IV, and in particular, Standard IV.7 that "the school applies the results of evaluation of student achievement to program development. Procedures are established for systematic evaluation of the degree to which a program's academic and administrative policies and activities regarding students are accomplishing its objectives..."

At this time, we believe we have satisfactorily addressed coming into compliance with Standard I by processes and procedures outlined in our October 1, 2014 report to CoA and the meeting with CoA by Director Caroline Haythornthwaite and Associate Director Luanne Freund in November 2014.

This current report provides ample evidence that we have also made considerable changes to create and implement a Learning Outcomes Assessment program that more than satisfactorily addresses coming into compliance with Standards II and IV. At this time, a substantial set of assessment activities are in place, integrated into the planning process, providing direct and indirect measures of student learning outcomes, and producing data that is integrated into our program's planning and decision-making processes.

As a school on Conditional Status we have complied with all requirements as requested for the accreditation process, and believe we have met all requirements for compliance with ALA accreditation standards. Thus, we ask, in keeping with the procedures of ALA COA, that our conditional status be lifted and full accreditation granted to the Master of Library and Information Studies program at UBC at this time.

Such an outcome as a result of the plan, reporting and changes we have made is in keeping with the *Accreditation Process, Policies, and Procedures* as outlined in the Third Edition, May 2012 (p.22), where it states (emphasis added) that:

A conditionally accredited program must have a plan for removal of conditional status approved by COA and must provide subsequent annual progress reports on that plan. The program should use the ERP report, the COA Decision Document, and previous correspondence from the Committee to identify the specific areas and issues of concern that will serve as a basis for the development of a plan to achieve compliance with the Standards. *Conditional status may be lifted prior to the scheduled visit if sufficient progress can be shown.*

We are confident that we have shown evidence to support our compliance with the ALA Standards, and look forward to your positive review of our program.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Haythornthwaite". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Haythornthwaite
Director and Professor
SLAIS, The iSchool@UBC