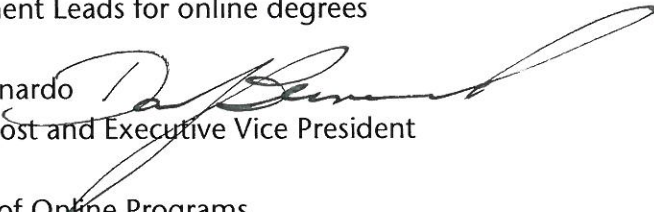January 10, 2014

TO: Deans, Campus Vice Chancellors, Associate Deans, Chairs
        and Assessment Leads for online degrees

FROM: Daniel J. Bernardo
        Interim Provost and Executive Vice President

SUBJECT: Assessment of Online Programs

When WSU's accreditation was reaffirmed in July 2013, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) gave the university a new recommendation — that is, a required action item —regarding assessment of student learning in online programs. Nationwide, this topic has been, and is expected to continue to be, a topic of concern.

- NWCCU Recommendation: WSU's academic programs must "ensure that student learning outcome information from online programs and courses are consistently included in assessment processes."

- The related peer evaluation report from spring 2013 noted that "Information on whether assessment includes learning outcomes information for students taking online programs or courses appears to be undocumented and unknown."

To move forward on this accreditation requirement a one-semester task force consisting of staff from the Office of Assessment of Teaching and Learning, the Graduate School, and the Global Campus will work with assessment leads in departments with online degrees. The group will inventory how online degree programs are assessing students, share strong practices and successes, identify any gaps, and help ensure that program assessment plans and annual reports incorporate online students and courses. The next annual assessment reports are due by June 1, 2014, from all academic programs.

The attached document outlines the charge to the group, expected outcomes, and membership list. Thank you in advance for supporting this important effort.

Task Force on Integrating Assessment of Online Programs into Regular Program Assessment (updated 1-8-2014)

Purpose: To move forward on the accreditation requirement to integrate assessment of online students, courses and programs into regular program assessment

Means: A task force that meets monthly in spring semester (Feb – April), to help ensure that program assessment plans and annual reports incorporate online students and courses.

Process:
- Task force to be appointed by the Provost, with representation from all programs that offer degrees online or plan to offer an online degree in the next year, Global Campus, ATL and the Graduate School (draft list on pg 2)
- Task force will work with ATL to develop an inventory of online assessment by WSU programs that can be connected with regular program assessment.
- ATL will take the lead on conducting the inventory, and will provide results to the task force for review and discussion.
- Task force members will share successful practices and ways to address bottlenecks for online assessment and integration with regular program assessment.

Outcomes:
- In April, the task force will submit a brief report regarding their recommendations and results from the inventory, to the Provost, the Liaison Council for Undergraduate Assessment, and the Graduate Advisory Council.
- The inventory will give a snapshot of current assessment of online students, courses, and degrees, and identify strengths and any areas for attention.
- Successful practices and approaches, as well as inventory results, will be a resource for all WSU programs, to support assessment in ways that are useful to widely different programs; the task force will suggest ways to best disseminate this resource (e.g., through ATL and the Graduate School, Global Campus, colleges, and/or other).
- Participation on the task force is intended to help programs with their annual assessment report, due on June 1, which must include online degrees.

Task Force for Assessment of Online Degree Programs, Spring 2014

Kimberly Green   Office of Assessment of Teaching and Learning
Pat Sturko   Graduate School, Assessment
Rebecca Vandevord   Global Campus

Undergraduate Online Degrees Currently Offered (June 2013)		
Degree	**Department Chair / School Director**	**Assessment Contact**
BA Humanities	Ana Maria Rodriguez-Vivaldi	Thomas J. Whitacre
BA Social Sciences	Ana Maria Rodriguez-Vivaldi	Thomas J. Whitacre
BA Criminal Justice	David Brody	Melanie-Angela Neuilly
BA Business Administration	David Whidbee	David Whidbee
BS Psychology	Rebecca Craft	Samantha Swindell
BA Human Development	Thomas G. Power	Deborah J. Handy

Graduate Online Degrees Currently Offered (Dec 2013)		
Degree	**Department Chair / Program Director**	**Graduate Program Assessment Update Report Prepared By**
Agriculture MS in Agriculture – Online Program MS in Agriculture, Food Science, and Management	Kimberlee Kidwell, Associate Dean	Katie Nickels
Business Administration (MBA) MBA in Business Administration – Online Program Executive MBA in Business Administration	David Sprott, Associate Dean	Cheryl Oliver
Special Education EdM in Special Education	Darcy Miller	Darcy Miller, Tariq Akmal (and Ashima Singh as assessment contact for College of Education)
Sport Management MA in Sport Management	Kelly Ward	John Wong (and Ashima Singh as assessment contact for College of Education)
Electrical Power Engineering PSM in Electrical Power Engineering	John Schneider, Associate Dean	N/A (new program being developed)
Engineering and Technology Management METM in Engineering and Technology Management	John Ringo	Patti Elshafei
Molecular Biosciences (PSM) PSM in Molecular Biosciences	John H. Nilson	Lisa M. Gloss
Communication MA in Strategic Communication	Prabu David, Associate Dean	N/A (new program)
Criminal Justice MA in Criminal Justice	David Brody	David Brody

Task Force for Assessment of Online Degree Programs, Contacts for Spring 2014

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BA Humanties & BA Social Sciences
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BA Criminal Justice
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