



Office of the Chancellor

February 25, 2010

Dr. Mary B. Breslin  
Vice President of Accreditation Relations  
The Higher Learning Commission  
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400  
Chicago, IL 60602-2504

Dear Dr. Breslin:

First and foremost, the University of Missouri-Kansas City is pleased with the evaluation team's report and recommendations. We appreciate the thoughtful review of our institution. Our choice for review option is the Readers Panel.

Having reviewed the final report, we offer the following comments:

- While not critical to the outcome of the report, the name of the University was incorrectly spelled in several places. It should read, UMKC rather than UNKC (pages 3 and 14).
- UMKC has a School of Law. The report references a College of Law (bottom of page 16).
- UMKC Libraries discussion (page 13) – While we concur that the University Libraries materials budget is not as large as we would like it to be, and we will continue working on expanding our holdings, we think that the report does not adequately reflect our situation as part of the UM system. Our holdings, for example, far exceed what is available on site. We have extensive consortial memberships and arrangements, such as the statewide MOBIUS and the UM system MERLIN, which enable us to both license electronic resources at large group discounts and to share collections with Missouri, the United States, and the world. For example, we saved \$300,000 in licensing arrangements by utilizing our buying power with MERLIN alone. We are also members of the Missouri Library Network Corporation (MLNC) and participate in other consortia for group purchases and resource sharing.

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY**

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- UMKC Research activity (page 15) – Although we agree that there was a fluctuation in revenues in the area of research dollars in 2006 (due to several researchers leaving the University), research revenues at UMKC have steadily increased overall. Additionally, the University has implemented improvements in how its research efforts are structured. For example, Dr. Lynda Bonewald, one of the UMKC’s top researchers was named Interim Vice-Chancellor for Research and is charged with upgrading our research infrastructure and developing our strategic plan for increasing the external funding at UMKC. At the unit level, the School of Medicine centralized its research efforts through establishing a Research Administration Office and appointing a Director of Research Administration. The office is responsible for both pre-award and post-award processes and will serve as the interface with researchers.
- Assessment (page 13) -- The report identifies additional work for the University related to Criterion Three: Student Learning and Effective Teaching. Specifically, work focused on the development of a university-wide system of assessment and assessment plans for all academic and co-curricular programs is identified. The University will focus attention in these areas and will prepare for a recommended focused site visit on assessment during the late spring of 2013. The University will prepare materials to address each of the six areas outlined in the Assurance Section, page 21 and will reflect progress on the plans identified in the Advancement Section, page 9.
- We would like to make a clarification regarding the statement made on page 20, paragraph 4, last line – “Reducing the funding for FaCET affirms the low priorities of assessment knowledge and skills for faculty roles.” This is not an accurate statement on several counts. First, it is an inference based on a reduction in the annual budget for FaCET during a budget reduction period for the entire university. Second, the existing budget was reduced in areas such as food for faculty attending development activities and for cell phone use by two staff members that were in no way related to central faculty development activities. FaCET continues to offer support for faculty development and assessment plans without interruption. Finally, the leadership of FaCET has been charged with developing a strategic plan for FaCET and once that plan has been submitted there is every probability of adjustments upward in the FaCET budget.

The Statement of Affiliation Status and the Organizational Profile are correct.

Thank you for your guidance throughout the review process. We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. Schnell and his team of evaluators for their thorough and careful review of UMKC.

If you have questions regarding our response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leo E. Morton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leo" being particularly prominent.

Leo E. Morton, Chancellor  
University of Missouri- Kansas City