January 25, 2019

Curriculum Review Council
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Dear committee members:

Request the Curriculum Review Council approve the proposed language for the University Vision, Core Values, and Accreditation, currently on pages 8-9 and Academic Assessment on page 23 of the Northwestern 2018-2019 University Catalog. These changes align the language being used for these components with the University Strategic Plan 2016-2021 and associated assessment documents and policy. Additionally, these changes to the accreditation and assessment language support the federal and comprehensive standards as per the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) principles of accreditation. Recommend the “Goals” paragraph on page 9 be deleted as this language is contained in the updated Vision and Core Values.

To aid in your review both the current and updated language is provided.

VISION (page 8):

**Current.** Northwestern State University strives for educational quality through excellence in teaching and research, innovative use of technology, and exceptional service to students and other constituencies.

The University seeks to attract and develop outstanding students and faculty and to provide them with the resources needed to promote optimal learning and service. By maintaining a student-oriented environment, Northwestern will offer challenging and rewarding academic experiences augmented and enriched with opportunities for cultural, social, athletic, and other extracurricular activities. The essence of this student-oriented environment will be the University’s commitment to create a cooperative atmosphere in which faculty, staff, and students treat each other with dignity and respect and recognize the value and worth of all individuals.

Electronic learning and distance education will be an integral part of Northwestern’s role in delivering degree programs and effective services on campus and throughout Louisiana, the nation, and the world.

Northwestern will be responsive to changing views and trends as it works to provide a highly-qualified workforce to promote economic development and to meet the needs that higher education can provide to students, state government, private enterprise, and society.
Updated. Northwestern State University will become the nation’s premier regional university through the innovative delivery of transformative student learning experiences that prepare graduates for life and career success.

VALUES (page 9):

Current. Northwestern recognizes the value of all individuals and strives to create a climate in which faculty, staff, and students treat each other with dignity and respect in an effort to provide students the opportunity to achieve success. The University’s desire is to retain and graduate students who are satisfied with, and motivated and enriched by, the quality of education and services that they receive at Northwestern.

Updated. Our Core Values. Our core values capture the guiding principles for how we make decisions and work together. They are the foundation for the type of University community and regional partner we strive to become. Our guiding values are:

- **Our students are our priority.** We provide each student with transformational and experiential learning experiences to assist in the development of an ever-growing individual, scholar, and professional.
- **Diversity helps define who we are.** We welcome and respect all traveling on a journey for knowledge. Differences make us stronger.
- **We are future focused.** We do not rest on our laurels, as we are in constant search of individual and organizational improvement. We seek opportunities to improve our students, community, and region.
- **Innovation is leading the forward edge of change.** We strive to be on the forefront in all we do.
- **We honor and respect the ideals of freedom.** We protect the freedom of all members of our community to seek truth and express their views.
- **We are careful stewards.** We responsibly and sustainably manage the economic and natural resources entrusted to us.
- **Integrity is our cornerstone.** We hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards as educators, scholars, students, and professionals.
- **We are a team.** We are a collaborative community that focuses on ensuring the success of every member.

GOALS (page 9 - Delete)

- To create an environment that supports individual efforts toward academic, career, social and civic success.
- To make Northwestern State University the premier regional university in the state.
- To work together and create an environment of excellence.
- To develop and enhance relationships which are mutually beneficial to both the university and its stakeholder(s).
ACCREDITATION (page 9)

CURRENT:

Northwestern State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, specialists, and doctorate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097 for questions about the accreditation of Northwestern. It is a member in good standing of the Association of American Colleges and also of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

All degree programs at the bachelor’s level in education and those leading to the Master of Education and Educational Specialist degrees are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. The Graduate School is a member of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States.

The Associate of Science in Nursing, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Master of Science in Nursing programs are approved by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing. The Associate of Science in Nursing is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Master of Science in Nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The Bachelor of Science program in Radiologic Sciences is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT).

The Master of Science degree in Psychology, Clinical is accredited by the master’s in psychology Accreditation Council.

Baccalaureate degree programs in the School of Business are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB).

The Fine and Graphic Arts program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). All degree programs in music are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). The baccalaureate degree in Theatre is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST).

All degree programs in Child and Family Studies are accredited by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Electronics and Industrial Engineering Technology baccalaureate degree programs are accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET.

The Social Work program is accredited at the bachelor’s level by the Council on Social Work Education.
The baccalaureate degree in Biology, with a concentration in Veterinary Technology, and the associate degree in Veterinary Technology are accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

All other degree programs, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, are not required to seek program accreditation. These programs participate in an internal self-study to ensure academic rigor, student success, and viability.

**UPDATED:**

Northwestern State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, specialists, and doctorate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097 for questions about the accreditation of Northwestern. The University also is a member in good standing of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. Additionally, the Graduate School is a member of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States.

**Biological and Physical Sciences** - Both the baccalaureate degree in Biology with concentration in Veterinary Technology and the associate degree in Veterinary Technology are accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

**Business** - The baccalaureate degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, and Computer Information Systems are accredited by the Association for Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB).

**Creative and Performing Arts** - Both the baccalaureate and master’s degrees in Art are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). The baccalaureate and master’s degrees in Music are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). The baccalaureate degree in Theatre is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST). The baccalaureate degree in Music Education is accredited by both NASM, as well as the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

**Engineering Technology** - The baccalaureate degree in Industrial Engineering Technology and baccalaureate degree in Electronics Engineering Technology are accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

**Nursing** - Both the baccalaureate and master’s degree in Nursing are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) located at 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750 in Washington, DC 20001 and phone number 202-887-6791. The associate degree in Nursing is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

**Radiologic Sciences** - The Northwestern State University Radiologic Sciences program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT)
located at 20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2850 in Chicago, IL 60606-3182. The Committee may be contacted at (312) 704-5300 or via email at mail@jrcert.org.

Social Work - The baccalaureate degree in Social Work is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

School of Education (SOE) - The baccalaureate, master, and/or specialist programs in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Middle School Education, Secondary Education, Health & Physical Education, Music Education, Curriculum & Instruction, Educational Leadership, Educational Technology Leadership, and Special Education are accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). The baccalaureate, Master of Arts, and Master of Education in Early Childhood Education are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The Master of Education in Educational Leadership is accredited by Educational Leadership Constituent Council (ELCC). The Master of Education in Educational Technology Leadership is accredited by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). The baccalaureate program in Music Education is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). The Master of Arts in School Counseling is accredited by the Council of Counseling and Related Educational Program (CACREP).

Other Degree Programs - All other degree programs, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, are not required to seek program accreditation. These programs participate in an internal self-study to ensure academic rigor, student success, and viability.

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT (page 23)

Current. To ensure quality in its academic program offerings and to comply with requirements of the Louisiana Board of Regents, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and various national accrediting associations, Northwestern administers a comprehensive program of academic assessment. This includes the administration of special examinations to assess the effectiveness of general education and major fields of study in each baccalaureate degree program. Students are required to participate in academic assessment activities.

Updated. To ensure quality in its academic program offerings and to comply with requirements of the Louisiana Board of Regents, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and various national accrediting associations, Northwestern administers a comprehensive program of academic assessment. This includes the administration of student learning outcomes to assess the effectiveness of general education and major fields of study in each academic degree and certificate program. Students are required to participate in academic assessment activities.

Student Learning Outcomes are statements that specify what each student will know, be able to do, or be able to demonstrate when they have completed or participated in a degree program, course, project or activity. Northwestern’s annual assessment process is focused on assessing the extent to which students achieve these outcomes, and through the analysis of the results, effect
change to make improvements in student learning or program development. As part of the Northwestern’s Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Model there is a series of ongoing and systematic institutional procedures and integrated practices reflected in the strategic, operational, and tactical decisions made by the President and his senior leaders, the college deans and unit directors, and degree program coordinators and faculty in the classroom. The Model encompasses strategic and operational planning, the allocation of resources, and the evaluation of student achievement, programs and services, and administrative and experiential learning activities. It includes the identification and measurement of outcomes across all objectives, including strategic focus areas, student learning and service outcomes, and the analysis of data and assessment results to inform decision making. These coordinated activities are intended to support and enhance the Mission, Vision, and Core Values of Northwestern State University by improving programs and services and increasing student success and institutional quality. Visit the NSU Institutional Effectiveness website and see Assessment Cycle Reports to review degree program assessment of student learning outcomes.

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Curriculum Review Council

Topic: Request to add standardize language to all Academic Course Syllabi.

Purpose: Have CRC approve request during the 12 February 2019 meeting.


Who: The Director of Institutional Effectiveness requests to add Student Learning Outcome (SLO) language to all academic course syllabi effective fall 2019.

Proposed addition:

Student Learning Outcomes: Student Learning Outcomes are statements that specify what each student will know, be able to do, or be able to demonstrate when they have completed or participated in a degree program, course, project or activity. The published objectives of this course either directly and or indirectly support the student learning outcomes used to assess the Bachelor of Science Degree in (modify as needed). Visit the NSU Institutional Effectiveness website https://www.nsu.edu/institutionaleffectiveness/ and see Assessment Cycle Reports to review your degree program assessment of student learning outcomes and or ask your professor how your course impacts the degree program assessment.

Rationale:

Adding the above language is being about transparency and accountability. Here is the issue. We are obligated to include our students in our student learning outcome assessment process. I do not think we have focused on this component enough. By having this statement in our syllabi, we are striving (SACSCOC word) to educate our students on the process. They should know how their course supports the overall degree program assessment. We owe our students the opportunity to participate and the ability to review their programs assessment and to understand the importance of their role in the process. We are giving them the information necessary to do just that.

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