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**PRESIDENT**  
Ralph A. Wolff

July 10, 2012

Felix Liu  
President  
Logos Evangelical Seminary  
9358 Telstar Avenue  
El Monte, CA 91731

Dear President Liu:

At its meeting on June 15, 2012, the Commission considered the report of the Special Visit team that conducted an on-site review of Logos Evangelical Seminary (LES) March 7-8, 2012. The Commission also reviewed the Special Visit report and exhibits submitted by the Seminary prior to the visit. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you, Ekron Chen, academic dean, and Sonny Gan, director of business affairs. Your observations were very helpful in informing the commission's deliberations.

The Special Visit came as the result of the Commission's action in June 2010 to grant candidacy to LES and to schedule a single Special Visit for the initial accreditation review. The Commission concluded that LES was in substantial compliance with WASC Standards in most areas and only needed to demonstrate compliance in a limited number of areas to demonstrate readiness for initial accreditation.

The three areas of focus for the Special Visit were: (1) completion of its strategic plan, (2) extension of learning outcomes and assessment to all programs, and (3) completion of more program reviews.

The Commission commends LES for addressing each recommendation in a thorough manner. Program learning outcomes have been adopted for all four graduate programs, with rubrics that facilitate both assessment of learning and improvements to the programs. The Commission acknowledges substantial progress in the other two areas as well and finds that the Seminary is now in substantial compliance with all Commission Standards.

The Commission noted, however, that much of the evidence for progress made since the last visit was provided after the team arrived on campus, rather than in materials sent in advance of the visit. The Commission expects Logos to provide more detailed narrative and extensive documentation in future reports to WASC.

The Commission endorses the findings, commendations and recommendations of the visiting team report, and highlights the following areas for further attention prior to the next review:

**Implementing the strategic plan.** The Commission commends LES for the major effort it undertook to develop a new strategic plan. The team found that this process “engaged the full community” and showed that “careful reflection was given to environmental and internal data, and that the faculty, administration and board are united together around the mission, vision, and strategic initiatives set forth in the plan.” The Commission also supports the team’s recommendation that the administration regularly review and monitor the strategic plan, and that departments be engaged in more formal data analysis and budget projections as new plans and programs are developed as an outgrowth of the strategic plan. (CFRs 4.2, 4.3)

**Refining the program review process.** The Commission commends LES for completing program reviews in three of its four degree programs and utilizing the results of reviews to make significant improvements. As the team found, “the institution is making informed decisions which lead to identifiable changes that align with the program objectives.” The Commission recommends that LES strengthen its program review process by utilizing external reviewers with content expertise and by making other refinements in keeping with the team recommendations. The Commission also recommends that the program review process include an expanded array of comparative data from external sources and be more formally aligned with budgeting processes through action plans. (CFRs 2.7, 4.4)

As an additional matter raised during the discussion with the Commission panel, the Commission was encouraged to learn about LES’s commitment to diversity and the significant number of female students already enrolled. It invites the Seminary to consider increasing enrollment of female students and recruiting students who speak Mandarin from beyond LES’s traditional base of Chinese students. (CFR 1.5 and Statement on Diversity)

In reflecting on the three visits made by WASC visiting teams to LES, the Commission congratulates LES for the seriousness with which the accreditation process has been taken by the institution. The Seminary’s focus on educational effectiveness with the development of learning outcomes, rubrics, and curriculum maps for all academic programs can become a model for similar institutions. The stability of finances with a debt free campus and a growing endowment with reasonable tuition costs has demonstrated the commitment of the Seminary’s community to providing an education to train pastors for the denomination. The professional background of the faculty, all of whom have doctorates from respected institutions, illustrates the commitment to educational excellence.

The Commission found that Logos Evangelical Seminary has met WASC’s Core Commitments, Standards, and Criteria for Review. Thus, the Commission acted to:

1. Receive the Special Visit report.
2. Grant initial accreditation to Logos Evangelical Seminary.
3. Schedule the next comprehensive review to begin with an off-site review in spring 2017, followed by a visit in fall 2017.

4. Request an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2014. This report should describe and document progress on the issues highlighted in this letter and in the team report by providing evidence of:
  - a. Regular, formal monitoring of the strategic plan and continued development of formal, rather than informal, analysis of data in decision making related to the strategic plan;
  - b. Further strengthening of the program review process through greater use of external data and reviewers, and alignment with the budgeting processes.

In taking this action to grant initial accreditation, the Commission confirms that Logos Evangelical Seminary has satisfactorily addressed the Core Commitments to Institutional Capacity and Educational Effectiveness, and has successfully completed the review process conducted under the Standards of Accreditation. Between this action and the time of the next review, the Seminary is expected to continue its development in areas identified in this letter and in the Special Visit report.

Accreditation status is not granted retroactively. Institutions granted the status of accreditation must use the following statement if they wish to describe the status publicly:

Logos Evangelical Seminary is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior College and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, 985 Atlantic Avenue, #100, Alameda, CA 94501, (510) 748-9001.

The phrase “fully accredited” is to be avoided, since no partial accreditation is possible. The accredited status of a program should not be misrepresented. The accreditation granted by WASC refers to the quality of the institution as a whole. Because institutional accreditation does not imply specific accreditation of any particular program in the institution, statements like “this program is accredited” or “this degree is accredited” are incorrect and misleading.

The Commission stipulates that this action encompasses the degrees being offered by Logos Evangelical Seminary at the time of this action: Doctor of Ministry (DMin), Master of Theology (ThM), Master of Divinity (MDiv), and Master of Arts in Christian Studies (MACS). In keeping with the WASC Policy on Degree Level Approval, Logos Evangelical Seminary is designated as having an "I" (Individual) status for each of the degree levels currently being offered. This means that all new degree programs initiated by the Seminary will require prior approval through WASC's Substantive Change process. Degree programs that have been reviewed and included under this action may be extended to LES's other existing sites in Chicago without prior Substantive Change action.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the Seminary's board chair in one week.

In keeping with WASC policy adopted in November 2011, this letter and the underlying team report also will be posted on the WASC website in approximately one week. If you wish to post a response to the letter and/or team report on your own website, WASC will also post a link to that response on its website. Any link that you wish to provide should be forwarded to the attention of Teri Cannon so that it may be included on the WASC website. As noted in the Commission policy, team reports and action letters are foundational for institutional accountability and improvement. Institutions are expected to disseminate these documents throughout the institution for the purposes of promoting ongoing engagement and improvement and encouraging internal communications about specific issues identified in team reports and action letters.

The Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the investment of time and resources that Logos Evangelical Seminary made in undertaking this accreditation review. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Ralph A. Wolff  
President

RW/ro

cc: Linda Johnsrud, Commission Chair  
Ekron Chen, ALO  
Paul Huang, Board Chair  
Members of the Special Visit team  
Richard Osborn