March 24, 2011

Dr. Lawrence S. Bacow
President
Tufts University
Ballou Hall, 2nd Floor
Medford, MA 02155

Dear President Bacow:

I am pleased to inform you that at its meeting on March 2, 2011, the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education considered the report submitted by Tufts University to offer three graduate certificate programs through its Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy via distance education and took the following action:

that the report on distance education programming submitted by Tufts University be accepted and distance education programming be included within the institution’s accreditation, with an effective date of March 2, 2011;

that the comprehensive evaluation scheduled for Spring 2013 be confirmed.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its action.

The report submitted by Tufts University was accepted and distance education programming encompassed within the institution’s accreditation because the Commission finds the activity to be substantially in compliance with the Standards for Accreditation. We understand that the University’s Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy intends to offer three graduate certificate programs, Delivery Science in International Nutrition, Nutrition Science and Communication for Public Relations Professionals, and Applied Positive Deviance, in an online format.

We commend Tufts University for a thorough and well-written report. We are gratified to learn that the University has located responsibility for its distance education programming with the University Provost’s office. We note with approval that plans for program review of these three graduate certificate programs have already been developed and are to include student course evaluations as well as interviews with both faculty and a sample of students. Faculty teaching in the program will be drawn from the ranks of the
Friedman School’s current faculty, and we applaud the resources the University has made available to them with regard to the technical and pedagogical aspects of teaching online. We commend the University for its clear understanding of the intended student population for these certificates, and of the resulting admissions criteria that it has put in place. Student advising will be handled primarily by the Friedman School’s Senior Director of Academic Initiatives. Assistance addressing technical difficulties with the ANGEL learning management system will be available to students 24/7. We take favorable note that students will have access to the Hirsh Health Science Library’s materials, both electronic and print, from wherever they are studying.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the report submitted by Tufts University and hopes that its preparation has contributed to institutional improvement. We appreciate your cooperation with the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education in New England.

You are encouraged to share this letter with all of the institution’s constituencies. It is Commission policy to inform the chairperson of the institution’s governing board of action on its accreditation status. In a few days we will be sending a copy of this letter to Mr. James Stern. The institution is free to release information about the report and the Commission’s action to others, in accordance with Commission policy.

If you have any questions about the Commission’s action, please contact Barbara Brittingham, Director of the Commission.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mary Jo Maydew

MJM/jm

Enclosure

cc: Mr. James Stern