



November 27, 2018

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J.  
President  
Creighton University  
2500 California Plaza  
Omaha, NE 68178-0522

Dear Daniel,

By this letter, I want to communicate Fr. General Sosa's positive evaluation of the Mission Priority Examen carried out at Creighton University this past academic year. He is grateful for the self-study and noted the seriousness and thoroughness with which the Creighton community of laity and Jesuits carried out their work. Fr. Sosa was equally impressed with the second moment of the Examen which was carried out with the engagement of the visiting team. He noted the quality and honesty to the dialogue which took place during the peer visit.

Fr. Sosa was eager to point out that the process which led to the Creighton self-study was based on an organic model which grew out of the 2016 campus-wide Area Examen, which then shifted into planning and led to the adoption of "The Creighton 150 Strategic Plan: Lighting the Way". The Examen Protocol, based in this process, created a coherent and ambitious set of priorities.

Fr. Sosa went on to comment about the ways the Creighton priorities fall very much in line with three of his points at the International Association of Jesuit Universities in Spain last July. In his Bilbao address, Father General indicated three areas for engagement in the modern complex university. First, that integral formation of the human person should take place in and outside of the classroom. It is not just professional training. Creighton's emphasis on deepening the relationship between the humanities and other fields of study will help accomplish this essential formation. This humanism characteristic is central to the education offered by the Society of Jesus.

The second area is the need "to break through the geographic and social boundaries" within our universities. Creighton is doing this through the new campus in Phoenix, the collaboration with Jesuit Worldwide Learning, the online programs, the efforts to hire for mission and diversity, and the myriad of other ways in which Creighton demonstrates its desire to be connected with other local, national, and international communities and realities beyond its main campus in Omaha. While Fr. Sosa was happy to read of these initiatives, his hope is that Creighton will continue to help the Society's other universities network more effectively with these initiatives.

Third, at Bilbao, Fr. Sosa asked that our universities be apostolic, "that is, a way of announcing more effectively the Good News of the Gospel, of learning to recognize the

presence of God in the world and the action of the Spirit in history in order to join with and contribute to human liberation.” Creighton’s priority to provide formation for faculty, staff, and trustees, “including more opportunities to engage the Spiritual Exercises” was noted and this is a way to develop the skills of discernment so needed to recognize the activities of the Spirit in our world.

As Provincial, I wrote to Fr. General Sosa about the Examen process at Creighton University. In that letter I confirmed the university’s effective engagement with its Catholic and Jesuit identity and I endorsed the strategic initiatives which were identified by the university. In his letter to me on November 13, 2018, he said that he approves the findings of the Examen as reason to confirm the Catholic and Jesuit identity of Creighton and recommends continued sponsorship.

I want to congratulate you and all of those who generated the comprehensive documents on your mission and identity. At the same time, I am grateful for all of the work and attention which went into Creighton’s Examen process. It has brought honor to you and the university. I know that you will share the good news affirming the Catholic and Jesuit identity of your institution with your Trustees and central administration.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Paulson, S.J." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Brian G. Paulson, S.J.  
Provincial

cc: Mr. Michael McCarthy  
Chair, Board of Trustees

Rev. Daniel C. McDonald, S.J.  
Provincial Assistant for Higher Education