TO: Graduate Council

Dr. Renee Scapparone, Chair

FROM: Dr. Richard S. Lapidus, President

RE: NECHE 2022 Accreditation Process

DATE: January 29, 2020

This memorandum serves as notification to the Graduate Council that Fitchburg State University will soon begin the process of preparing for our ten-year comprehensive regional accreditation. Fitchburg State University is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), one of seven accrediting commissions in the United States that provides institutional accreditation on a regional basis.

To remain accredited, our institution must undergo a process of self-review by examining NECHE’s nine standards and articulating how we meet those standards in light of our mission. This process provides a framework for institutional development and self-evaluation. The process is meant to foster improvement and assure quality.

Fitchburg State’s last, full accreditation visit was in the spring of 2012 with a required Fifth-Year Interim Report submitted to NECHE in January 2017. The attached document broadly outlines the anticipated self-study process timelines. In order to have committees up and running at the beginning of fall 2020, and to allow committee chairs the opportunity to attend a NECHE preparation workshop in October 2020, a call for volunteers for committees will be announced in spring 2020. In fall 2019, the university confirmed timelines for its 2022 accreditation with NECHE and noted that Associate Vice President, Dr. Catherine Canney, would serve as liaison to NECHE for all communications.

We look forward to the opportunity to come together as a collective community to prepare a self-study report, reflecting on our work, formulating ways for continued improvement and continuing to proudly serve our students.

Cc. Dr. Alberto J. F. Cardelle, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Catherine R. Canney, Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs