

July 11, 2022

Dr. Minh-Hoa Ta
President
University of the West
1409 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770

Dear President Ta:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning University of the West (UWest) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 24, 2022. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to University of the West March 8-11, 2022. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by University of the West prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's May 6, 2022 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Jane Iwamura, CAO; Vanessa Karam, ALO; Shusaku Horibe, IR Analyst; and Amy Chong, CFO. Your comments were very helpful in informing the Commission's deliberations. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with WSCUC.

Actions

1. Receive the Accreditation Visit team report
2. Reaffirm accreditation for a period of six years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2027 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2028
4. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by March 1, 2023 to address:
 - a. Enrollment.
 - b. Budget projections.
5. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2025 to address all requirements of this letter

The Commission commends University of the West in particular for the following:

1. A mission, vision, and values that are clear, compelling, and a galvanizing force for the university community as was evident during the visit and gave credence to the regular use of the words "home" and "family."
2. Cohesive administration and leadership who communicate transparently to appropriate stakeholders regarding the health and status of the university and

- degree program requirements and procedures.
3. Graduate programs with a strong and consistent blend of scholarship, contemplation, and practical skills.
 4. Staff and faculty who emphasize student support and embody the mission, vision, and values through providing excellent engagement and personalized service.

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following issues:

1. Implement the five-year enrollment plan using strategies based on market research targeting specific student populations. (CFR 3.4)
2. Continue to value and support the intangible, whole-person Buddhist philosophy and include shared governance to guide curriculum and program development. (CFR 2.1, 2.2, 3.10)
3. Prioritize financial sustainability by achieving a balanced budget using evidence-based enrollment projections without reliance on cash reserves. (CFR 3.4);
4. Through shared governance, create adjunct faculty evaluation policies and implement faculty workload policies. (CFR 2.9, 3.2, 3.3);
5. Proactively use institutional research to improve student-success measurements metrics by developing an evidence-based plan to help faculty and staff analyze students served and barriers to success. (CFR 2.10, 4.2);
6. Continue building the assessment infrastructure and culture, prioritizing the analysis of direct and indirect data, implementing change based on data, and reporting outcomes at the programmatic and institutional levels. (CFR 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 4.1)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that University of the West addressed the three Core Commitments and successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, University of the West should strive for ongoing improvement with adherence to all Standards of Accreditation and their associated CFRs to foster a learning environment that continuously strives for educational excellence and operational effectiveness.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of University of the West's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the University of the West's website and widely distributed throughout the institution to promote further engagement and improvement and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in these documents. The team report and the Commission's action letter will also be posted on the WSCUC website. If the institution wishes to respond to the Commission action on its own website, WSCUC will post a link to that response on the WSCUC website.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that University of the West undertook in preparing for and supporting this accreditation review. WSCUC is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Jamiene S. Studley
President

JSS/mbg

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair
Vanessa Karam, ALO
Hsin Bau Shih, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Mark B. Goor, Vice President