

July 12, 2019

Dr. William A. Covino  
President  
California State University, Los Angeles  
5151 State University Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90032

Dear President Covino:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 28, 2019. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to Cal State LA February 26-March 1, 2019. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Cal State LA prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's May 7, 2019 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Lynn Mahoney, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Karin Elliott Brown, Associate Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies and ALO; and Octavio Villapando, Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion and University Diversity Officer. 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 ten years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2028 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2029
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review to begin May 1, 2024
5. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2024 to address:
  - a. The integrated plan for achieving the key initiatives in the student success goal of the strategic plan. Please provide:
    - i. A copy of the integrative plan
    - ii. Evidence of effectiveness in achieving the student success goal
  - b. Progress toward the 2025 goal of increasing graduation rates. Please provide:
    - i. Graduation rates from fall 2018 to fall 2023, disaggregated to assess equity gaps
    - ii. Retention data in the same period, disaggregated to assess equity gaps
  - c. Progress in diversifying the faculty and high-level administrators. Please provide data from fall 2018 to fall 2023 on demographic characteristics of administrators (at the dean level and above) and faculty (tenured, tenure track, adjunct).

The Commission commends Cal State LA in particular for the following:

1. Taking steps to improve graduation rates by implementing 15-unit course loads and educating students and the campus community on the benefits of a full course load to aid students in timely graduation.

2. Increasing transfer and six-year graduation rates as a result of retention and graduation initiatives that are based on proven national models.
3. Creating an ambitious and comprehensive strategic plan that is transparent, inclusive, and has significant campus buy-in.
4. Thoughtfully using the quarter-to-semester conversion to advance institutional goals, including efforts to define the meaning of the degree and to strengthen curriculum and learning outcomes in support of quality and integrity.
5. Demonstrating a commitment to civic and community engagement as reflected in the curriculum and co-curriculum, including the Cal State LA Downtown campus.
6. Initiating an academic assessment infrastructure that understands the importance of program assessment as a tool for equity.
7. Developing and using institutional effectiveness tools and services to enhance data-informed decision-making.
8. Developing the Center for Effective Teaching and Learning to the point where it is a national model for faculty development, with the express focus on student success and equity.
9. Demonstrating a strong system of shared governance supported by early consultation and transparent processes.

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

1. Continue progress toward the 2025 goal of increasing retention and graduation rates. (CFR 2.10) The Commission appreciated learning about the increase in average unit load for freshmen that provides a foundation for a four-year path to graduation.
2. Define and implement a mature culture of assessment as demonstrated by a comprehensive set of assessment principles and a more integrated organizational structure, and provide evidence of achievement of those principles. (CFR 4.1)
3. Continue to develop and implement direct assessment and program review in the co-curriculum and support services. (CFRs 2.7, 2.11)
4. Develop and implement an integrated plan for achieving the key initiatives in the student success goal of the strategic plan that leverages campus assets as efficiently as possible. (CFRs 3.7, 4.6)
5. Continue efforts to improve the diversity of the faculty and high-level administrators. (CFR 3.1; Equity and Inclusion Policy) The Commission appreciated learning about the changes in recruitment processes and the 2019 faculty hiring results.
6. Continue to take steps to ensure enrollment is in line with the financial resources available to meet student needs with a focus on continued faculty hiring and professional development, new and enhanced facilities, strategic and timely advising, robust student support, and enhanced infrastructure. (CFR 3.4)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that California State University, Los Angeles has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the two-stage

institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, Cal State LA 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 will be sent to the chair of California State University, Los Angeles' governing board. A copy of this letter will also be sent to Chancellor Timothy P. White. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Cal State LA'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 California State University, Los Angeles 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,



Jamienne S. Studley  
President

JSS/ bgd

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair  
Karin Elliott Brown ALO  
Adam Day, Board Chair  
Timothy P. White, Chancellor, California State University  
Members of the Accreditation Visit team  
Barbara Gross Davis, Vice President