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**COMMISSION ON OSTEOPATHIC COLLEGE ACCREDITATION**

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**VIA EMAIL ONLY:** [dconnett@westernu.edu](mailto:dconnett@westernu.edu)

August 14, 2023

David Connett, DO  
Dean  
Western University of Health Sciences  
College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific  
309 E. 2nd Street/College Plaza  
Pomona, CA 91766-1854

Dear Dr. Connett,

Thank you for your August 9, 2023, email and for taking my call last week. I appreciate your making me aware that you never received a final action letter stating the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation's (COCA) decision at its January 18, 2023, meeting after we spoke by phone on January 23, 2023. I apologize for this error. This letter provides written documentation of that decision. Please reach back out should you have any questions or need additional clarification.

The COCA formed an appeal panel which met on November 17, 2022. At this meeting, the panel voted to remand the decision of issues regarding Element 6.9 back to the COCA for reconsideration, including new information supplied by Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (WesternU/COMP). This reconsideration addressed the following issues:

1. Whether WesternU/COMP's required, fourth year Emergency Medicine rotation is a "core clinical rotation" for purposes of Element 6.9?
2. If COCA concludes that WesternU/COMP's Emergency Medicine rotation is not a "core clinical rotation," does the program's capacity for the Emergency Medicine rotation otherwise meet COCA's Accreditation standards?
3. If WesternU/COMP's Emergency Medicine rotation is a "core clinical rotation," does the program's capacity for the Emergency Medicine rotation meet COCA's Accreditation Standards regarding Element 6.9?"

Pursuant to the COCA Policies and Procedures the published accreditation status for WesternU/COMP had been posted as "Accreditation" pending the final review by the COCA. The information on the U.S. Department of Education's Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs indicated an accreditation status of "Accreditation" for WesternU/COMP.

At a special meeting held on January 18, 2023, the COCA reviewed the materials submitted by WesternU/COMP. With a motion and a second, the COCA voted to accept the progress report.

Following a review of the materials, with a motion and a second, the COCA found that Emergency Medicine was not considered a core rotation in the materials provided by WesternU/COMP. This motion passed. Additionally, it was motioned and seconded that WesternU/COMP's Emergency Medicine clinical rotations met the COCA requirements for clinical rotations. This motion also passed.

In further action, upon motion and second, the COCA awarded WesternU/COMP the accreditation status of Accreditation with Exceptional Outcome for a period of 10 years.

Commissioner Juan Acosta, DO, was recused from the vote on this matter. Commissioners Serene Bethune, DO, and Herchran Singh, OMS IV, were absent for the deliberation and vote on this matter. COCA Chair John M. Kauffman, Jr., DO, abstained from the vote on this matter.

WesternU/COMP's next accreditation review will be 2032-2033. A mid-cycle report will be due in May 2028, and supplemental annual reporting will be required per COCA policies.

Pursuant to 34 CFR § 602.26(a), the COCA must report accrediting decisions to the U.S. Department of Education. The COCA's review and decision has been reported to the Department, as well as applicable state regulatory and regional accrediting agencies. This information has also been posted on the COCA website.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this process. If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Accreditation at 312-202-8124 ([predoc@osteopathic.org](mailto:predoc@osteopathic.org)) or contact me directly at 615-772-7966 ([gjames@osteopathic.org](mailto:gjames@osteopathic.org)).

Sincerely,



Genie James, MMSc  
Vice President, Accreditation, and Interim COCA Secretary

CC: John M. Kauffman, Jr., DO, FACOI, FACP; Immediate-past Chair, COCA  
Jeffrey Stroup, PharmD, FCCP, BCPS; Chair, COCA  
Robyn Phillips-Madson, DO, MPH, FACOFP; Vice Chair, COCA