

2026 Special Visit Committee Meeting Summary Notes

Date: May 29, 2025
Venue: MS Teams



12:00 - 1:00 pm

Facilitators: Dr. Bradley Henson and Dr. Satoko Siegel

Members: Bradley Andresen, Suresh Appavoo, Carolina Banuelos, Rosana Bravo, Connie Callahan, Joshua Cameron, Denise Cornish, Sarah Farah-Franco, Rodney Hicks, Mayra Hoskins, Sil Han Jin, Rick Leeper, Andre Matti, Joshua McFarlen, Mark McIntire, Laurice Orense, Maria Pallavicini, Elizabeth Rega, Carl Todaro, Tim Wood

Recorder: Heather Simmons

Absent: Stephanie Amonoo-Monney, Barbara Baker, Stephanie Bowlin, Eugene Brown, Mirabelle Fernandes Paul, Hyma Gogineni, Leslie Hayes, Liliana Martinez, Stephen O'Barr, Joseph Park, Jonathan Perry, Sunil Prabhu

Items	Discussion/Action
Review Summary Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please send updates, edits or corrections to Heather Simmons.
WSCUC 2023 Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSCUC has paused its formal DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) requirements in response to political pressure stemming from former President Trump's executive order. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite this, there is continued emphasis on student success through a Humanism framework, which is increasingly being integrated throughout WSCUC documentation and standards. During the WSCUC Accreditation Resource Conference (ARC), WesternU representatives met with the VP, liaison, and other WSCUC officials to discuss current concerns and alignment. WesternU appears to be in a strong position due to its long-standing commitment to Humanism, which can serve as an effective and acceptable framework in lieu of explicit DEI language. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSCUC is aware of the national challenges surrounding DEI and has expressed willingness to consider institutional context—particularly when recommendations or standards previously referenced DEI directly.

<p>Section B: Standard 1 – 4 Feedback</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard 1 – 4 Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sections A and B have been reviewed by legal (Powers Consulting), with Section C under development. ○ Final report will be approximately 72–75 pages (double-spaced); strict page limit enforced. ○ Unlimited appendices and exhibits are allowed; IRE is working on visual consistency and formatting. ○ Charts/graphs moved to appendices to preserve space in the main report. ○ Reflective analysis is a major requirement under new WSCUC standards. ○ Institutions must reflect more deeply than in past submissions. ○ Each major section (e.g., institutional mission) includes a reflective analysis. ○ The report is not to resemble promotional material—focus is on transparency and substance. • Governance and Faculty Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Section A contains narrative on shared governance, but was condensed during legal review. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May revisit adding more detailed content depending on governance feedback. • Governance feedback process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft will go to five governance groups the week of June 2. ○ Entire faculty will not review individually, but feedback is collected thematically from groups. ○ Thematic analysis will identify aligned concerns and be incorporated accordingly. ○ This process is more informational and collaborative than revision-by-committee. ○ Discussion on transparency and whether challenges are clearly stated. ○ Challenges like board scores are acknowledged and supported by evidence. ○ Ongoing analysis from the Shared Governance Assessment Project will be incorporated if ready. • Exhibit and Documentation Needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All report content must align perfectly with exhibit evidence. ○ IRE will reach out for missing documents and original Word versions to ensure formatting consistency. ○ All documents will be converted to PDF after final formatting.
<p>Next Steps and Action Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Steps & Timeline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Section C will be ready for committee review by Monday. ○ June 2: Draft distributed to governance groups for feedback. ○ July 10: Final report submission deadline. ○ Will provide faculty with version showing tracked revisions (if feasible). ○ Discussion on whether to reconvene in July—decision made to cancel July meeting. ○ Next meeting will be in August to prepare for mock and actual site visits. • Site Visit Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waiting on confirmation from WSCUC for official site visit date for Lebanon campus. ○ A mock visit will be planned with Powers Consulting. ○ Dr. Tamela Hawley offered to provide a full-day training session on campus. ○ Additional training opportunities will be scheduled to ensure everyone is well-prepared.

Questions, Comments, Concerns?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Maria Pallavicini commended the team for progress and emphasized summarizing WesternU's governance efforts in a concise paragraph for clarity. • Emphasis that shared governance assessment is an ongoing effort, not a one-time project.
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 26, 2025