

July 20, 2018

Dr. Daniel Wilson
President
Western University of Health Sciences
309 E Second Street College Plaza
Pomona, CA 91766-1854

Dear President Wilson:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Western University of Health Sciences (WUHS) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 27-29, 2018. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to WUHS March 27-29, 2018. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by WUHS prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's June 12, 2018 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues: Gary Gugelchuk, CAO; and Juan Ramirez, Director. 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 eight years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2025 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2026
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review to begin May 1, 2022
5. Schedule a Special Visit in spring 2021 to address an update to recommendations 1 and 2 listed below

Commendations

The Commission commends WUHS in particular for the following:

1. The commitment of the Board, administration, faculty, staff, and students to internalizing the mission of WUHS and embodying the "WesternU Way."
2. The welcoming learning environment created by the administration, faculty, staff, students, and community supporters of COMP-NW geared toward improving the health and community of the Pacific Northwest.
3. The engagement and service of WUHS students, faculty, staff, and administration with and to their communities in a sustainable manner.
4. The collaboration of board, administration, faculty, and staff in conducting a successful search process for the new president who seems to fit well with the institution.

5. The director and staff in Institutional Research and Effectiveness for creating a vibrant and effective institutional research capacity. They are central to fostering a culture of evidence at the university.
6. The faculty, staff and administrators who have expanded research and scholarly activity at WesternU through development of research facilities, recruitment of talented faculty and staff, and securing of extramural and intramural funds to support this work.
7. The efforts of the board and administration to enhance the financial stability of WesternU and to seek diversification of revenue streams.
8. The president and administration for initiating a strategic planning process that will engage all WesternU constituents.
9. The administration, faculty, and staff for consistently producing students who successfully achieve their professional goals.

Recommendations

The Commission identifies the following issues for further development:

1. Board of Trustees CFR 3.9
The board takes its fiduciary role seriously and has successfully conducted a search process for the new president. The Board should continue to expand its capacity and effectiveness to provide appropriate oversight of institutional integrity, policies, and ongoing operations. It should seek members with diverse qualifications and experiences to help govern an institution of higher learning and meet the mission of WUHS to its communities.
2. Diversity CFR 1.4, 2.10
The Board, administration, faculty, and staff should devote meaningful resources to create a diverse and inclusive learning environment at both campuses and among WUHS clinical preceptors. The Board should continue to expand in a number of areas including attention to diversity of Board members. WUHS will be served by alignment with the WSCUC Equity and Inclusion Policy.
3. Shared Governance CFR 4.2, 3.4, 2.7
WesternU has initiated significant steps to engage the creativity and insights of faculty to improve the quality of education and research. The Board, administration, faculty, and staff continue to strengthen shared governance initiatives, implement them throughout the university, and enhance bidirectional communication between all levels of WUHS so that front-line faculty and staff are fully engaged and have psychological safety to help improve the educational environment and innovate.
4. Culture of Evidence CFR 4.2, 2.7
The Board, administration, faculty, and staff should continue to use program review for all academic and co-curricular programs, expand the quality of data collected, and more fully embrace a culture of evidence.

5. Faculty Development CFR 3.2, 3.3

The Center for Academic and Professional Enhancement (CAPE) has numerous programs, workshops, and weekly presentations to support the learning needs of faculty and staff. However there is a need to strengthen the culture of evidence and expertise in program review, instructional pedagogy, and innovative curriculum design.

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that WUHS has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. Between this action and the time of the next review for reaffirmation, the institution is encouraged to continue its progress, particularly with respect to student learning and success.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of WUHS's governing board in one week. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the WUHS'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 WUHS 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/ thh

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair
Gary Gugelchuk, ALO
Richard Bond, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Tamela H. Hawley, Vice President