

July 8, 2020

Dr. Glenn Roquemore
President
California Southern University
3330 Harbor Boulevard
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Dear President Roquemore:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning California Southern University (CASU) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 26, 2020. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to California Southern University March 11-13, 2020. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by California Southern University prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's May 22, 2020 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Bonita Nickle, ALO, and Ray Villanueva, Board Chair. 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. Defer action on accreditation until June 25, 2021 following the spring 2021 Special Visit. During this time, CASU remains accredited by WSCUC.
3. Schedule a Special Visit in spring 2021 to address: a) establishment of a stable and effective staff and senior administration; b) progress on efforts to address sharply declining graduation rates; c) progress on clarification of expectations for faculty scholarship; d) progress on closing the loop on use of assessment of student learning; e) progress on building board independence and expertise; and f) improving communication and transparency with WSCUC.

The Commission commends California Southern University in particular for the following:

1. Implementation of a plan to update technology that will improve the learning experience, financial reporting, and operations.
2. Affordable programs with access to 0% interest loans.
3. Development of a new mission, strategic plan, learning outcomes, and a framework for assessment.
4. Implementation of a retention plan resulting in increased first year retention rates.

5. Diverse, passionate, and student-centric staff, faculty, and board.

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

1. Redesign the educational model to assure faculty-initiated, regular, and substantive interaction with students. (CFRs 2.5, 4.4)
2. Fully execute all three phases of the assessment plan and act on results to make informed decisions to improve student learning. (CFRs 2.6, 2.7, 2.11)
3. Implement a functional, valid, and reliable data collection, analysis, and reporting system that supports a culture of evidence and improvement. (CFRs 4.1, 4.2, 4.3)
4. Strengthen the Faculty Senate by continuing to develop a more engaged role in university decision making. This includes expanding the functions of Senate committees and representation on university committees. (CFRs 2.4, 3.10)
5. Increase the number of independent members on the board of directors, strengthen and document its committee activities and actions, and obtain a broader perspective on institutional activities and effectiveness from input from key stakeholders. (CFR 3.9)
6. Rebuild trust within the university community through consistent and fair employment policies and practices, attention to campus climate, and open communication. (CFR 1.7)
7. Build a coherent and stable leadership structure that operates with integrity, honesty, transparency, and accountability. Operate in good faith with external entities. (CFRs 1.8, 3.6)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that California Southern University 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, California Southern University 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 Southern University's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the California Southern University'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 Southern University 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
Bonita Nickle, ALO
Ray Villanueva, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Mark B. Goor, Vice President