

July 12, 2019

Dr. Kwang Kim  
President  
Stanton University  
9618 Garden Grove Blvd., STE 201  
Garden Grove, CA 92844

Dear President Kim:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Stanton University (Stanton) 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 Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 to Stanton University May 7-10, 2019. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Stanton University prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 and the institution's June 6, 2019 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues *Ellen HyunEun Lee, Vice President, and Franklin Turner, 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 Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 team report
2. Grant Candidacy for a period of five years
3. Schedule a Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 in spring 2021

The Commission commends Stanton University in particular for the following:

1. Multiple individuals including leadership clearly articulated how the mission (affordability, high quality, diversity, and career focus) drives decision making for Stanton.
2. The Offices of Assessment and Institutional Research work seamlessly and collaboratively to provide excellent products and services, including the roll-out of several learning and management systems.
3. The institution successfully adapted a new mission in 2012 in response to changes in the external environment which led to the development of new academic programs and the sun-setting of existing programs.
4. Quality facilities in well-chosen locations, including specialized equipment and technology for programs.

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

Standard 1: Defining Institutional Purposes and Ensuring Educational Objectives

The Commission finds that Stanton University has demonstrated evidence of compliance with Standard 1 at a level sufficient for Candidacy. In order to demonstrate compliance at a level sufficient for Initial Accreditation, the following CFRs require additional attention and development:

- CFR 1.4: Develop and publish clear policies for diversity of employees and attention to diversity in enrollment planning.
- CFR 1.7 and 3.8: Develop a Board-approved succession plan for key leaders that includes fiscal planning as appropriate.

### Standard 2: Achieving Educational Objective through Core Functions

The Commission finds that Stanton University has demonstrated evidence of compliance with Standard 2 at a level sufficient for Candidacy. In order to demonstrate compliance at a level sufficient for Initial Accreditation, the following CFRs require additional attention and development:

- CFR 2.4 and 2.6: Develop a comprehensive assessment system using faculty-developed learning outcomes in order to use the feedback to improve student success. CFR 2.7: Complete program reviews for all degree programs.
- CFR 2.9: Develop and implement an effective faculty evaluation system.
- CFR 2.11 and 2.13: Implement appropriate student support services and assess their impact.

### Standard 3: Developing and Applying Resources and Organizational Structures to Ensure Quality and Sustainability

The Commission finds that Stanton University has demonstrated evidence of compliance with Standard 3 at a level sufficient for Candidacy. In order to demonstrate compliance at a level sufficient for Initial Accreditation, the following CFRs require additional attention and development:

- CFR 3.1, 3.4, and 3.7: Develop and implement a faculty and academic leadership staffing plan that ensures all roles and responsibilities are fulfilled.
- CFR 3.2 and 3.3: Implement a staff development and evaluation system based on best practices.
- CFR 3.10: Define governance roles, rights, and responsibilities for all categories of faculty. Develop an appropriate structure whereby the institution's faculty take collective responsibility for establishing appropriate standards of performance and demonstrating through assessment the achievement of these standards.

### Standard 4: Creating an Organization Committed to Quality Assurance, Institutional Learning, and Improvement

The Commission finds that Stanton University has demonstrated evidence of compliance with Standard 4 at a level sufficient for Candidacy. In order to demonstrate compliance at a level sufficient for Initial Accreditation, the following CFRs require additional attention and development:

- CFR 4.3: Develop thorough structures and processes that engage key stakeholders which demonstrate a commitment to systematic assessment and use of data to improve learning across all programs.
- CFR 4.7: Provide evidence of planning based on anticipated enrollment and new programs that involves key stakeholders and aligns with mission to guide program development, resource allocation, and improvement.

In keeping with WSCUC review protocols, the required subsequent review and Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 will focus primarily on those issues identified under each Standard (above) deemed to require additional development. (Please also reference the team report for additional context for the Commission's findings.) In keeping with WSCUC values, Stanton 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 taking this action, the Commission confirms that Stanton University has met all of the WSCUC Standards at a level sufficient to grant Candidacy. The Commission has scheduled the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 in spring 2021.

Institutions granted the status of Candidate for Accreditation must use the following statement if they wish to describe that status publicly:

*Stanton University has been recognized as a Candidate for Accreditation by WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001. This status is a preliminary affiliation with the Commission awarded for a maximum period of five years. Candidacy is an indication that the institution is progressing toward Accreditation. Candidacy is not Accreditation and does not ensure eventual Accreditation.*

Federal law requires that the WSCUC address and phone number appear in your catalog.

Institutions granted Candidacy are required to:

1. Submit an Annual Report in the format required by the Commission
2. Keep the Commission informed of any significant changes or developments. Any proposed new degree programs, off-campus sites, online offerings, and/or changes in governance or ownership require review and approval through the Substantive Change process.

3. Pay Annual Membership Dues prorated from the date of this action. An Annual Dues statement will be sent under separate cover.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of Stanton University's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be 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.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that Stanton 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: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair  
Ellen Lee, ALO  
Franklin Turner, Board Chair  
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 team  
Mark Goor, Vice President