

November 19, 2018

George Burnett
President
Northcentral University
2488 Historic Decatur Rd
San Diego, CA 92106

Dear President Burnett:

During its November 7-9, 2018 meeting, the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) considered a proposal submitted by Northcentral University (NCU) for a Change of Control to the National University System (NUS) and in Legal Status. This change is a Structural Change, defined by WSCUC Substantive Change policy as a change in mission, ownership, legal status, or control.

Consideration of this Structural Change follows submission by the institution of a proposal and its subsequent review by a panel of the Substantive Change Committee via teleconference on August 20, 2018, submission of additional information requested by the panel, and an on-site visit to the NUS offices on September 28, 2018. During its November 7-9, 2018 meeting, the Structural Change Committee of the Commission reviewed the original Structural Change application materials, letter from WSCUC staff conveying the findings of the Substantive Change Committee panel, the visiting team report, and additional materials which had been requested to supplement the proposal. The Structural Change Committee also had access to the institution's accreditation history and past Commission action letters.

The Structural Change Committee decided to endorse the findings of the Substantive Change Committee panel and refer to the full Commission its recommendation that the Change of Control and Legal Status be approved.

After deliberation, the Commission acted to:

1. Receive the Structural Change Committee recommendation;
2. Approve the proposed Change of Control and Legal Status, through which Northcentral University will change its control to the National University System, and change to non-profit legal status as part of the transaction. Prior to the closing of the transaction, material changes in the proposed terms must be reported immediately to WSCUC to determine if further review or action is necessary;
3. Require a post-implementation visit within six months of implementation to address progress on the following recommendations:

- a. Confirm that Northcentral University has procedures in effect to assure an appropriate level of autonomy of the institution and independence of the board (CFR 1.5, 3.9).
- b. The institution should develop appropriate expectations for scholarship and research among students and faculty consistent with the graduate nature of the institution (CFR 2.8).
- c. The institution should create and implement the processes for the faculty to take collective responsibility for the curriculum (CFR 2.4).
- d. The institution should make sure the faculty exercises effective academic leadership (CFR 3.10).

These recommendations will also be considered during NCU's Offsite Review in fall 2019 and Accreditation Visit in spring 2020.

It is the responsibility of NCU to notify the Commission immediately of the completion of the transaction and the completion of all other necessary approvals for implementation of this change.

This letter will be posted on the WSCUC website in accordance with WSCUC Commission policy. If NCU would like to respond to the Commission's findings, a link to your response will be posted on the WSCUC website.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for NCU's cooperation during this Structural Change 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 or comments about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Jamiene S. Studley
President

cc: Members of the Substantive Change Committee panel
John Hausaman, Director of Substantive Change and Committee Relations
Lori Williams, Vice President