

February 26, 2020

Sheikh Hamza Yusuf
President
Zaytuna College
1712 Euclid Ave
Berkeley, CA 94709

Dear President Yusuf:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Zaytuna College (Zaytuna) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 14, 2020. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to Zaytuna College October 1-3, 2019. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Zaytuna College prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's December 20, 2019 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues, Dr. Omar Qureshi, Provost, Mr. Pervez Qureshi, Board Chair, and Ms. Sumaira Akhtar, ALO/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 spring 2027 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2027
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review to begin May 1, 2024
5. Schedule a Special Visit in fall 2021 to address all requirements in this letter

The Commission commends Zaytuna College in particular for the following:

1. For developing a compelling vision and rigorous curricular programs aligned with its mission, values, and purpose, and for the impact the college is already having on American higher education and the global Muslim community.
2. For its substantial achievements in response to previous recommendations from WSCUC evaluations, including building capacity in the area of institutional effectiveness, and by completing and approving the Faculty Handbook.
3. For its substantial improvements in board governance. Responding to prior WSCUC recommendations and to the institution's own desire to adopt best practices, it is gratifying to see how the board has progressed, including adopting clear bylaws, separating board membership from administrative roles, and providing opportunities for board development, including those offered by the Association of Governing Boards (AGB).
4. For its ability to graduate students from its programs free of debt. Zaytuna

College is exceptionally adept at fundraising and, as a result, has posted unqualified audited financial statements, annual operating surpluses for at least the past five years, and a balance sheet at the end of FY 2017-18 that is free of long-term debt, even after the acquisitions that year and the year before of substantial real estate.

5. For attracting highly qualified and motivated students and providing them with a deeply reflective and holistic educational experience that integrates Islamic and Western liberal arts traditions while incorporating academic rigor, co-curricular engagement, and experiential learning.

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

1. Publish student achievement data including retention and graduation rates on the institutional webpage. (CFR 1.2, 4.2)
2. Complete the strategic plan through formalizing institutional strategic priorities, aligning resources with those priorities, and establishing benchmarks for communicating progress to the entire Zaytuna community. (CFR 3.4, 4.6)
3. Incorporate strategies into the institution's strategic plan to diversify revenue streams and otherwise mitigate conceivable threats to financial viability including market volatility, adverse publicity, unplanned staff turnover, and natural disaster. (CFR 3.4)
4. Prioritize plant maintenance and improvement in the strategic plan to ensure that buildings are safe and support modern pedagogy and allocate the funds necessary to improve them to suit the school's growth plans. (CFR 3.4)
5. Develop robust policies and procedures to support all students equitably in courses, preceptorials, support programs, and co-curricular activities. It should particularly address the needs of populations such as students with disabilities and international students, as well as increasing effective access for its female students to faculty and advisors, which can be facilitated by increasing the proportion of female faculty and staff. (CFR 1.4, 2.13)
6. Continue the critical work of assessing both direct and indirect evidence grounded in clear learning outcomes at the institution, program, and course levels. Zaytuna must also complete the development of its comprehensive program review process, using data-driven analysis in curricular decision making. (CFR 2.3,2.7)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that Zaytuna College 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, Zaytuna College 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 Zaytuna College's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Zaytuna College'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 Zaytuna College 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,



Jamiennie S. Studley
President

JSS/mbg

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair
Sumaira Akhtar, ALO
Perez Qureshi, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Mark B. Goor, Vice President