

February 26, 2020

Mr. Brian Marcotte
President
Marymount California University
30800 Palos Verdes Drive East
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-6299

Dear President Marcotte:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Marymount California University (MCU) 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 Special Visit to MCU November 15, 2019. The Commission in June 2018 received a report from an earlier Special Visit in February 2018 and called for a second Special Visit. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by MCU prior to the Special Visit and the institution's January 24, 2020 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you, and your colleagues Ariane Schauer, Provost/EVP/ALO. Your comments were very helpful in informing the Commission's deliberations. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's status with WSCUC

Actions

1. Receive the Special Visit team report that focused on: 1) enrollment plan; 2) campus climate; 3) compliance with WSCC, state and federal regulations and requirements; 4) progress of the newly appointed president; and 5) development of a plan for long-term viability
2. Continue with the previously scheduled reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2021 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2021

The Commission commends MCU in particular for the following:

1. **Response to Commission Recommendations.** The campus addressed each of the Commission's recommendations with vigor and genuine commitment to the institution's immediate budgetary challenges and long-term financial solvency and has done so in accordance with WSCUC standards.
2. **Campus Climate/Morale.** Administrative and Board leadership—complemented by high level of engagement among faculty and staff—took action to evaluate and realize its mission commitment to an environment of openness, integrity, collaboration, and respect.
3. **Reporting Structures.** Significant changes in governance and reporting structures have improved institutional functioning and avoid compliance and regulatory conflicts.

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following issues at the time of the scheduled Offsite Review and Accreditation Visit in 2021:

1. **Financial Sustainability.** Continue to employ assertive actions to cover operating deficits and to achieve balanced annual and multi-year financial/budget planning—essential for institutional viability and long-term sustainability. (CFR 3.4)
2. **Enrollment Growth.** Continue urgent and aggressive actions to address the institution’s highest priority for enrollment growth/management that is at the core of its long-term financial sustainability. (CFR 3.4)
3. **Strategic Planning Implementation.** Implement fully the strategic plan, integrated with enrollment and marketing plans; demonstrate progress toward achievement of strategic priorities through assessment data/metrics. (CFR 4.6)
4. **Academic Planning.** Continue to engage in strategic academic planning focused on raising MCU’s academic reputation and visibility with branding that emphasizes MCU’s academic distinction to attract and retain students. (CFRs 3.4, 3.10)
5. **Explore Long Term Strategies for Sustainability.** Explore long term strategies for sustainability such as potential affiliations. (CFR 3.4)

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

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair
Ariane Schauer, ALO
Bret Johnsen, Board Chair
Members of the Special Visit team
Richard Osborn, Retired Vice President, Staff Liaison at time of visit
Susan Opp, Vice President