

June 20, 2014

Timothy Cole
President
United States University
830 Bay Blvd
Chula Vista, CA 91911

Dear President Cole:

During its June 18, 2014 meeting, the Structural Change Committee of the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) considered the proposal submitted by United States University (USU) for a change of ownership from Educacion Significativa, LLC, to Linden Education Partners. By WSCUC policy, this requires structural change approval by the Commission.

Consideration of this structural change follows submission by the institution of a full proposal, review by a panel of members of the Substantive Change Committee, a site visit by members of the review panel on May 1, 2014, and submission of a site visit report. The Committee had access to the original USU proposal and related materials, the letter from WSCUC staff communicating the findings of the Substantive Change Committee action of April 15, 2014, and the site visit report. The Commission also had access to USU's accreditation history and past Commission letters.

The Structural Change Committee endorsed the findings of the Substantive Change Committee and the site visit report.

The Structural Change Committee referred to the full Commission its recommendation that the change of ownership be approved. This recommendation was ratified by the Commission as further described below:

1. Approve the change of ownership of United States University from Educacion Significativa, LLC to Linden Education Partners to be implemented within six months.
2. Require a federally mandated follow-up visit within six months of implementation. This visit will take place before the Offsite Review scheduled for November 14, 2014.

The following areas will be examined at the time of the six-month follow-up visit and during the Offsite Review:

Financial sustainability. USU is expected to provide updated budget forecasts for 2015-2017, descriptions of any cost containment efforts, tuition projections, and other financial information (as appropriate) so that the team can judge the institution's financial sustainability. (CFRs 3.4, 4.7)

Enrollment management. The team will examine enrollment trends, both overall and by program, and the impact of growth on the composition of the student body. (CFRs 3.4, 3.7)

Governance. Two entities have responsibilities for the governance of USU: the Board of Trustees and the Board of Managers. At the time of the six-month follow-up and Offsite Review, the team will explore the operations of the two boards and how they work together in practice. The team will also review policies on compensation of board members, the bylaws of the boards, minutes of the boards since May 1, 2014, and minutes of any subcommittees that may have met since that time. (CFR 3.9)

Educational effectiveness. The team will look at the effectiveness of newly installed enterprise systems (SalesForce, Pearson, Campus Vue) in enhancing academic support and student services. The team will also review USU's efforts in assessing student learning outcomes. (CFRs 2.3, 2.4, 3.5, 3.7)

Strategic plan. The team will want an update on the progress of USU in meeting the objectives outlined in the 2014-2015 strategic plan. (CFR 4.6)

It is the responsibility of United States University to notify the Commission immediately of the date of closing of the change in ownership and the completion of all other necessary approvals for implementation of that change, so that the Commission can be advised of any conditions placed on the transaction by other parties and can set a date for the six-month site visit.

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

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Mary Ellen Petrisko
President

Cc: Steve Stargardter, ALO
Members of the Substantive Change Committee
Members of the Structural Change Committee
Barbara Gross Davis, WSCUC Vice President