

July 20, 2018

Father George Schultze
President and Rector
St. Patrick's Seminary and University
320 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025-3596

Dear President Schultze:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning St. Patrick's Seminary and University (SPSU) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 27-29, 2018. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Special Visit to SPSU March 20-23, 2018. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by SPSU prior to the Special Visit and the institution's May 14, 2018 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and ALO Jon Kirwan. 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 Special Visit team report that focused on:
 - a. Strategic Planning
 - b. Educational Effectiveness
 - c. Cultural Competency
 - d. Organizational Structure
2. Remove the Notice of Concern
3. Continue with the previously scheduled reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2020 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2021

Commendations

The Commission joins with the Special Visit team and commends St. Patrick's Seminary and University for the following:

1. The renewed commitment and dedication of the board, administrators, faculty, staff, and students to the mission and values of the institution;
2. Strengthening and stabilizing the institution's administration, decision-making processes, and planning through shared governance;
3. Improving the engagement and structure of the board of trustees including the addition of independent members who diversify and add to the skill sets that will enable the institution to move forward;
4. Developing an effective and systematic assessment infrastructure that identifies strengths and weaknesses in the curriculum to improve student learning;

5. Designing and implementing a comprehensive and robust program review process, and completing reviews of all its degree programs, resulting in pedagogical and curricular changes;
6. As part of the process for evaluating seminarians, developing, with student/faculty input, and putting into place the “Faculty Advising--Transparency Policy”; and
7. Clarifying the meaning and role of cultural competency in the formation of seminarians, and establishing ways to measure student success in achieving this outcome.

Recommendations

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following issues for its next reaffirmation:

1. Expand future strategic planning beyond 2019 to include: (CFRs 4.5-4.7)
 - a. input from multiple constituencies and ownership by the community;
 - b. linkages to budgeting and decision-making processes;
 - c. metrics and data drawn from institutional assessment; and
 - d. long-term goals designed to increase the sustainability of the institution, along with the short-term tactical components.

The Commission appreciated hearing that work has already begun on the strategic plan including setting timelines, identifying milestones, and determining lines of responsibility.

2. Continue the current path of making assessment systemic, valid and comprehensive. Ensure that students consistently meet standards of performance and levels of proficiency in curricula and co-curricular programs. (CFRs 2.2, 2.2b, 2.3, 2.4, 4.3, 4.4)
3. Continue to adhere to the program review timetable, self-study template, and schedule, seeking input and participation of faculty and students. (CFRs 2.7, 4.3, 4.4)
4. Build on increased communication strategies, and, after stakeholders have had the opportunity to provide appropriate input into decisions, ensure that important matters are shared with the community in a timely manner. (CFRs 3.2, 3.6, 3.7)

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of St. Patrick’s Seminary and University’s governing board in one week. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the SPSU 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 St. Patrick's Seminary and University undertook in preparing for and supporting this 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,



Jamienne S. Studley
President

JSS/ bgd

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair
Jon Kirwan, ALO
Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, Board Chair
Members of the Special Visit team
Barbara Gross Davis, Vice President