

July 20, 2018

Dr. Mary Marcy
President
Dominican University of California
50 Acacia Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901-2298

Dear President Marcy:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Dominican University of California (DUC) 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 Accreditation Visit to DUC April 3-6, 2018. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by DUC prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's June 6, 2018 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you, and your colleague, Tammi Jackson, CFO. 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 fall 2025 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2026
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review for May 1, 2022
5. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by November 1, 2020 to address all recommendations included in this Commission action letter

Commendations

The Commission commends DUC in particular for the following:

1. A focused strategic plan, *Dominican at 130*, that positions Dominican to continue its mission in a challenging and changing higher education environment. (CFR 4.7)
2. A distinctive model, *The Dominican Experience*, with four strategies that provide undergraduate students with curricular and co-curricular integration based on high impact practices. (CFRs 2.1, 2.3, 2.5)

3. A comprehensive set of assessment and program review practices that are at the beginning stages of implementation. (CFRs 2.7, 4.1, 4.3)
4. The refinancing of long-term debt with cost savings and more favorable terms. (CFR 3.4)
5. An independent, engaged, supportive, and committed Board of Trustees that is focused on best practices including revised bylaws, term limits, and self-evaluation. (CFR 3.9)
6. A collaborative, dedicated, and qualified faculty and staff, who have supported the university as it has experienced financial stresses and have energetically engaged in the strategic planning process to advance the mission, vision, and values of the university. (CFR 3.1)
7. A stable, qualified academic and administrative leadership team that clearly supports and effectively directs the new strategic directions. (CFRs 3.6, 3.7)

Recommendations

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

1. To assure the university's long term financial viability, Dominican should strive to advance the timelines to balance its unrestricted operating budget, implement its strategic plan, and address deficiencies in facilities and technology infrastructure. (CFRs 3.4, 3.5)
2. The university should continue to enhance its continuous planning efforts, including formalizing processes and timelines for the assessment of the *Dominican at 130* strategic plan. (CFRs 4.6, 4.7)
3. To acknowledge and retain its valued faculty and staff resources, Dominican should advance efforts to achieve desired staffing levels, to meet compensation targets for faculty and staff, and to provide appropriate levels of faculty and staff development. (CFRs 3.1, 3.3)
4. The university should provide an increased level of authority and support to the Office of Diversity and Equity and the Diversity Action Group and advance the development, implementation, and assessment of a diversity plan. (CFR 3.1)
5. Dominican should continue to build and maintain a robust system for tracking progress for the institutional learning outcomes in curricular programs from general education through the majors and in co-curricular programs. (CFRs 2.2a, 2.11)

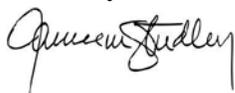
6. The university should further support institutional research and technology to provide high quality data and analysis for program review, assessment, and institutional effectiveness. (CFRs 4.2)
7. Dominican should closely monitor the impact of the transition from a three-unit to four-unit curriculum through quality assurance and fiscal budget processes. (CFRs 2.1, 2.2, 4.1)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that DUC has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. Between this action and the time of the next review for reaffirmation, the institution is encouraged to continue its progress, particularly with respect to student learning and success.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of DUC'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 DUC 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 DUC 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,



Jamienne S. Studley
President

JSS/do

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair
Nicola Pitchford, ALO
John Boneparth, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Richard Osborn, Vice President