

March 9, 2018

Mr. Eliseo Lopez  
President  
Stockton Christian Life College  
9023 West Lane  
Stockton, CA 95210

Dear President Lopez:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Stockton Christian Life College (SCLC) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 14-16, 2018. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 to SCLC November 8-10, 2017. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by SCLC prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 and the institution's January 23, 2018 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague Tamara Fitzpatrick, General Education Program Chair and Accreditation Liaison Officer (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 new status with WSCUC.

### **Actions**

1. Receive the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 team report
2. Grant Candidacy for a period of five years
3. Schedule a Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 in spring 2019

### **Commendations**

The Commission commends SCLC in particular for the following:

1. The institution's commitment to the seeking accreditation process and the effort it has engaged in to address WSCUC Standards and criteria for review (CFR). SCLC's welcoming spirit and openness in responding to the team's questions and requests for additional materials were appreciated.
2. The dedication, commitment, and unity of SCLC's administration, faculty, staff, and students.
3. Clearly defined Bible and Theology and General Ministry degree programs, and for the faculty leadership in developing Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for these programs.
4. Extensive and well-integrated co-curricular programs, the recent development of co-curricular learning outcomes, and a plan to measure those outcomes.
5. Unqualified independent audits for the last five years and functioning without an operational deficit by increasing cash on hand and controlling expenditures.
6. Integrated planning and budgeting with the Board Strategic Vision (BSV) serving as the overarching document driving annual planning for academic programs, administrative departments, and student services.

7. The recruitment of a student body whose demographics closely reflect the increasing diversity in society.

The Commission identified the following issues for further development:

Standard 1: Defining Institutional Purposes and Ensuring Educational Objectives

The Commission finds that SCLC has demonstrated evidence of compliance with Standard 1 at a level sufficient for Candidacy. In order to achieve a level sufficient for Initial Accreditation, SCLC will need to pay particular attention to the following CFRs:

- CFR 1.4 Increase the size and diversity of the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees to better reflect student, faculty and staff demographics and expand the professional qualifications of the Board.
- CFR 1.5 Revise SCLC bylaws to accurately reflect actual college operations.

Standard 2: Achieving Educational Objectives through Core Functions

The Commission finds that SCLC has demonstrated evidence of compliance with Standard 2 at a level sufficient for Candidacy. In order to achieve a level sufficient for Initial Accreditation, SCLC will need to pay particular attention to the following CFRs:

- CFR 2.2 and 2.6 Develop a definition of student success and a process to measure and track this success to help inform the meaning of SCLC's degrees and ensure the quality and integrity of its degrees.
- CFR 2.10 Collect, disaggregate, and analyze student success data to demonstrate acceptable retention and graduation rates and inform decision-making about the allocation of student support resources.

Standard 3: Developing and Applying Resources and Organizational Structures to Ensure Quality and Sustainability

The Commission finds that SCLC has demonstrated evidence of compliance with Standard 3 at a level sufficient for Candidacy. In order to achieve a level sufficient for Initial Accreditation, SCLC will need to pay particular attention to the following CFRs:

- CFR 3.1 Continue efforts to employ SCLC faculty with the appropriate education and credentials to qualify them to achieve the institution's educational objectives, establish and oversee academic policies, and ensure the integrity and continuity of its academic and co-curricular programs.
- CFR 3.3 Provide appropriate and sufficient professional development for faculty and engage faculty and staff in the broader higher education landscape to support them in their academic endeavors. (Refer as well to CFRs 2.1, 2.8, 2.9, and 4.7)
- CFR 3.4 Implement a plan to diversify revenue streams to support SCLC as it grows and gains sophistication as a higher education institution.

- CFR 3.9 Enhance the independence of the Board of Trustees to a level appropriate to govern an institution of higher learning.

Standard 4: Creating an Organization Committed to Quality Assurance, Institutional Learning, and Improvement

The Commission finds that SCLC has demonstrated evidence of compliance with Standard 4 at a level sufficient for Candidacy. In order to achieve a level sufficient for Initial Accreditation, SCLC will need to pay particular attention to the following CFRs:

- CFR 4.1, 4.3, and 4.4 It is imperative for SCLC to demonstrate sustained, evidence-based, and participatory self-reflection by: a) developing and implementing quality-assurance processes that include effective assessment tools and methods for direct and indirect assessment of student learning in relation to all Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) and Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and standards and benchmarks for student performance; and, b) using findings to improve curricula, pedagogy, and assessment methodology.
- CFR 4.2 Build institutional research (IR) capacity by developing and implementing clear IR expectations that include the generation and presentation of useful and accurate data to help guide SCLC in its planning and improvement efforts.

In taking this action, the Commission confirms that SCLC has met all of the WSCUC Standards at a level sufficient to grant Candidacy. The Commission has scheduled the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 for spring 2019.

Institutions granted the status of Candidate for Accreditation must use the following statement if they wish to describe that status publicly:

*Stockton Christian Life College has been recognized as a Candidate for Accreditation by WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001. This status is a preliminary affiliation with the Commission awarded for a maximum period of five years. Candidacy is an indication that the institution is progressing toward Accreditation. Candidacy is not Accreditation and does not ensure eventual Accreditation.*

Federal law requires that the WSCUC address and phone number appear in your catalog.

Institutions granted Candidacy are required to:

1. Submit an Annual Report in the format required by the Commission
2. Keep the Commission informed of any significant changes or developments. Any proposed new degree programs, off-campus sites, online offerings, and/or changes in governance or ownership require review and approval through the Substantive Change process.
3. Pay Annual Membership Dues prorated from the date of this action. An Annual Dues statement will be sent under separate cover.

In keeping with WSCUC review protocols, the required subsequent review and Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 will focus only on those issues identified under each Standard (above) deemed to require additional development. (Please also reference the team report for additional context for the Commission's findings.) In keeping with WSCUC values, Stockton Christian Life 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 S Stockton Christian Life College's governing board in one week. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be 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 Stockton Christian Life 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,



Jamiene S. Studley  
President

JSS/mam

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair  
Tamara Fitzpatrick, ALO  
Nathaniel Haney, Board Chair  
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 team  
Maureen A. Maloney, Vice President