

March 3, 2021

Dr. John Jackson
President
William Jessup University
2121 University Avenue
Rocklin, CA 95765

Dear President Jackson:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning William Jessup University (WJU) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 19, 2021. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Special Visit to WJU October 21-23, 2020. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by WJU prior to the Special Visit and the institution's December 21, 2020 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Phil Escamilla, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Kay Llovio, Vice President for Educational Effectiveness, Dean of the School of Humanities & the Arts, 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 status with WSCUC.

Actions

1. Receive the Special Visit team report that focused on: (1) co-curricular program assessment; (2) WJU's rapid growth and change; (3) decision-making and policy development approaches; (4) the student success committee and student retention plan; (5) annual program assessment and connections between program review and strategic planning; (6) the strategic planning process; and (7) financial sustainability
2. Continue with the previously scheduled reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2023 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2023

The Commission commends WJU in particular for the following:

1. Development and implementation of continuous assessment processes used in co-curricular areas, linked to university outcomes, with evidence of data collection.
2. Improved campus communication and participation in decision-making through the administration of a workplace survey, implementation of a project management system, and strategic reorganization of administrative teams.
3. Formation of a retention committee empowered by virtue of their respective positions to make changes to improve student success.
4. Successful refinancing of the three previous bank loans into a self-amortizing single tax-exempt bond issuance.

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

1. Create and maintain clearly identifiable and accessible data to inform university strategic plan priorities, budget requests, resources and allocations. (CFR 3.4, 4.6)
2. Disaggregate student learning outcomes data across academic and co-curricular programs to better identify and serve unique student needs. (CFR 2.6, 2.7, 2.10, 2.11)
3. Create and maintain a comprehensive, data-driven retention plan identifying retention and completion goals and strategies to achieve those goals. (CFR 2.10)
4. Develop and implement a shared governance policy and structure that provides the collective faculty with a strong role in institutional governance and the opportunity for independence and appropriate autonomy. (CFR 3.2, 3.7, 3.10)
5. Create a prudent contingency fund, based on WJU's expressed desire, of a full year's bond principal and interest debt service payments. (CFR 3.4)

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of WJU's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the WJU'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 William Jessup University 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,



Jamienna S. Studley
President

JSS/mam

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair
Kay Llovio, ALO
Cliff Daugherty, Board Chair
Members of the Special Visit team
Maureen A Maloney, Vice President