

June 30, 2017

Dr. John Scaringe  
President  
Southern California University of Health Sciences  
16200 East Amber Valley Drive  
Whittier, CA 90604

Dear President Scaringe:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Southern California University of Health Sciences (SCUHS) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 21-23, 2017. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to SCU April 4-6, 2017. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by SCU prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's June 2 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Dr. Sheryl Berman, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Heather Van Volkinburg, Director of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and ALO, Mr. Tom Arendt, Vice President for Finance and Administration and Mr. Chuck Sweet, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Operations and Interim Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs. 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 six years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2022 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2023
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review in spring 2020
5. Schedule a Special Visit in spring 2019 to address:
  - a. Financial sustainability
    - i. Aligning revenue flows with operating needs and expenses;
    - ii. Optimizing enrollment by leveraging the institution's expanded marketing and admissions expertise and developing a strategic plan to improve recruiting outcomes for programs with growth potential, as demonstrated by rigorous market analysis; and
    - iii. Growing extramural support by cultivating relationships with alumni and community members who share SCU's vision for integrative healthcare, increasing board of regents' contributions, and seeking extramural funds from foundations and/or government grants.
  - b. Program review
    - i. Demonstrating implementation of an effective program review process that includes longitudinal analysis of student learning outcomes and the systematic capture of institutional data;
    - ii. Providing evidence of the use of the results of program review for planning and resource allocation.
  - c. Professional accreditation

- i. Addressing the issues raised by the California Acupuncture Board and the Council of Chiropractic Education.

## **Commendations**

The Commission commends SCU in particular for the following:

1. Engaging in honest and transparent reflection and displaying a strong university-wide commitment to address areas needing attention and further development;
2. Having a dedicated, loyal and collegial faculty and staff;
3. Strengthening the mission and values of the institution by seeking to improve the campus climate and morale, defining behaviors that epitomize university values, building an integrative curriculum/professional model, and considering the holistic development of the student;
4. Improving communication and collaborative decision-making across campus by hiring key senior administrators with a commitment to collaborative leadership, instituting an inclusive budgeting process, and implementing new or reinforcing existing communication touch points to keep campus constituents well-informed and solicit input on decisions.;
5. Instituting a number of cross-disciplinary working groups to facilitate collaboration and effective decision-making, such as the Retention and Student Success Task Force and the University Assessment Council.

## **Recommendations**

The Commission identifies the following issues for further development:

1. Achieve financial stability (CFR 3.4):
  - a. Align revenue flows with operating needs and expenses;
  - b. Optimize enrollment by leveraging the institution's expanded marketing and admissions expertise and developing a strategic plan to improve recruiting outcomes for programs with growth potential, as demonstrated by rigorous market analysis; and
  - c. Grow extramural support by cultivating relationships with alumni and community members who share SCU's vision for integrative healthcare, increasing Board of Regents contributions, and seeking extramural funds from foundations and/or government grants.
2. Demonstrate successful implementation of a program review that leverages professional accreditation and other existing data collection systems, includes a longitudinal evaluation of student learning outcomes, and incorporates reflection and action planning; continue to build a culture of data-informed, continuous improvement by systematically capturing institutional data to inform decisions. (CFRs 2,7, 4.1, 4.3)
3. Continue to address issues raised by the California Acupuncture Board and Council on Chiropractic Education. (CFR 2.1)
4. Implement assessment processes for co-curricular and certificate programs and demonstrate how assessment data are used to make programmatic improvements. (CFRs 2.3, 2.11)
5. Continue to address the issues of faculty workload, compensation, and evaluation. (CFRs 2.9, 3.1, 3.2)

The Commission appreciated learning about the steps SCU is already taking to address these recommendations including developing near term and long term plans for financial sustainability, combining oversight for program review and assessment into a single office and adding additional staff, attending to the issues raised by the California Acupuncture Board and the Council on Chiropractic Education, establishing a co-curricular task force, and identifying fair workload for faculty and appropriate compensation levels.

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that Southern California University of Health Sciences 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 SCU'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 SCU 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 Southern California University of Health Sciences 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,



Mary Ellen Petrisko  
President

MEP/ bgd

Cc: William Ladusaw, Commission Chair  
Heather Van Volkinburg, ALO  
William Valusek, Board Chair  
Members of the Accreditation Visit team  
Barbara Gross Davis, Vice President