

March 9, 2017

Mr. Stephen Beal  
President  
California College of the Arts  
1111 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
San Francisco, CA 94107

Dear President Beal,

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the California College of the Arts (CCA) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 15-17, 2017. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to CCA October 18-21, 2016. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by CCA prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's December 15, 2016 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Provost Tammy Rae Carland and Director of Learning Assessment and Accreditation and ALO Dominick Tracy. 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 spring 2024 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2024
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review in spring 2021
5. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by August 15, 2020 to provide an:
  - a. Update on the financial position of the institution including a description of the (CFR 3.4):
    - i. financial resources that have been invested in unification and an indication of whether the costs have been more, the same, or less than projected
    - ii. costs that are still needed to complete campus unification, and identification of the sources of funding to cover the costs
    - iii. impact of unification expenses on the overall health of the budget
  - b. Update on the measures CCA has put in place to promote student safety, health, and wellness (CFR 2.13)

## **Commendations**

The Commission commends CCA in particular for the following:

1. Conducting a candid, thoughtful self-review and preparing a well-organized institutional report.
2. Continuously improving financial viability through steady and targeted enrollment growth, particularly in technologically oriented academic areas; rising retention and graduation rates; and increasing the endowment.
3. Engaging in data-driven decision making by implementing a robust institutional research function with multiple reporting and analysis tools in support of quality assurance activities.
4. Assessing college learning outcomes and using the results for continuous improvement.
5. Building on a strong foundation of studio-based instruction and a culture of critique with course-level learning outcomes assessment strategies aligned with program-level and institutional outcomes assessment efforts.
6. Enhancing co-curricular support, establishing the student affairs division, and ensuring the collaboration of student affairs and academic affairs in committee work and other college-wide efforts.
7. Undertaking a comprehensive planning process for campus unification with broad-based stakeholder participation.
8. Establishing a strong, constructive, and positive relationship between the board and the college's administration.

## **Recommendations**

The Commission identifies the following issues for further development:

1. Persist in the rigorous and inclusive planning process for the unification of the Oakland and San Francisco campuses. (CFR 4.6)
2. More consistently use findings from the assessment of learning outcomes in the allocation of resources. The pursuit of continuous improvement will benefit from informing the budget process with specific findings from the investigation of student learning. (CFRs 2.7, 3.7, and 4.6)
3. Continue efforts to support the success of international students by elevating their English language proficiency and enhancing their ability to engage fully in their academic and social experiences. Continue efforts to develop the intercultural skills that students, faculty and staff need to participate in a diverse community. (CFR 2.11)
4. Determine the effectiveness of its communication regarding issues of importance to the campus community. (CFR 1.7)
5. Take measures to promote student safety, health, and wellness on both campuses by developing an infrastructure to support students experiencing mental health or medical concerns and by taking additional steps to ensure a secure campus environment. (CFR 2.13)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that CCA 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 CCA'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 CCA 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 California College of the Arts 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Ellen Petrisko', written in a cursive style.

Mary Ellen Petrisko  
President

MEP/ bgd

Cc: William Ladusaw, Commission Chair  
Dominick Tracy, ALO  
Diane Christensen, Board Chair  
Members of the Accreditation Visit team  
Barbara Gross Davis, Vice President