

June 30, 2017

Ms. Janice Pearson
Dean
San Joaquin College of Law
901 Fifth Street
Clovis, CA 93612-1312

Dear Dean Pearson:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken by the Commission concerning San Joaquin College of Law (SJCL) 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 San Joaquin College of Law February 27 - March 2, 2017. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by San Joaquin College of Law prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR and the institution's April 21, 2017 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues *Mr. Justin Atkinson, Academic Dean*. 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 2024 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2025
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review in spring 2021
5. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2021 to address the following:
 - a. Program review:
 - i. Provide a description of the guidelines for the institution's program review process.
 - ii. Provide information on and results of one completed program review, including the summative assessment of achievement of the five program learning outcomes, and an analysis of data about the program. It is suggested that the institution consider the use of external reviewers for formal program review.
 - b. Diversity:
 - i. Describe the steps SJCL has taken to increase diversity of its faculty, staff and board members.
 - ii. Provide a description of the demographic characteristics of faculty, staff, students and board members as of December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2020.
 - c. Evaluation of staff:
 - i. Describe the process for evaluating staff.
 - ii. Identify the number of staff evaluated each year from 2017 to 2020.

Commendations

The Commission commends San Joaquin College of Law in particular for the following:

1. Having a faculty, staff, and board that is committed to the success of SJCL;
2. Establishing a regional pathway to promote diversity of students;

3. Being an access school with a diverse student population while maintaining rigor;
4. Making progress in increasing the diversity of the staff and the adjunct faculty;
5. Establishing the grant-funded New American Legal Clinic benefiting both the participating students and the community;
6. Providing helpful information on SJCL's website regarding Academic Standards & Achievements;
7. Developing robust technology that has enhanced institutional research, enrollment management and student systems;
8. Creating a financial reserve of at least \$2.3 million.

Recommendations

The Commission identifies the following issues for further development:

1. Program Review. While SJCL has engaged in various types of reviews and evaluations of its academic program (including external review), the college lacks a formal comprehensive program review process, which must be put into place. Information on implementation of this process and its results is to be provided in an interim report as specified in this letter (CFRs 2.7, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4)
2. Student Learning Outcomes Assessment. SJCL has periodically assessed students' competencies in oral and written communication and now needs to systematically assess other program learning outcomes. It should continue to strengthen the process of summative assessment of one or more program learning outcomes each year. All learning outcomes assessment should be addressed in the program review section of the Interim Report described above, as well as the next institutional report for reaffirmation. (CFRs 1.2, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.10)
3. Assessment of Effectiveness of Co-curricular Programs. SJCL needs to undertake the assessment and periodic program review of its co-curricular departments such as the library, career services, and advising. Co-curricular effectiveness assessment should be addressed in the next institutional report for reaffirmation. (CFR 2.11).
4. Diversity. SJCL should continue efforts to increase representation of diverse communities at SJCL, with particular emphasis on the board and faculty, and provide information on those efforts and their results in an interim report as specified in this letter. (CFR 1.4)
5. Evaluation of Staff. SJCL should implement a consistent process of annual staff evaluation and provide evidence of implementation in an interim report as specified in this letter. (CFRs 2.7, 3.2)
6. Board of Trustees. The SJCL Board of Trustees should implement a process for annual review of the institution's Chief Executive Officer and regularly engage in self-review and training to enhance its effectiveness. This recommendation should be addressed in the next institutional report for reaffirmation. (CFR 3.9)

The Commission was pleased to learn in the response to the team report about SJCL's commitment to improving the program review process and the plan to send a faculty member to the WSCUC Assessment Leadership Academy. The Commission also noted that since the visit SJCL has added a Hispanic board member and has plans to vote in two more underrepresented board members at

the June 2017 meeting. In addition, the Commission looks forward to learning the results of the new system of staff evaluation that began this spring.

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that San Joaquin College of Law 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 San Joaquin College of Law'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 San Joaquin College of Law'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 San Joaquin College of Law 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/lw

Cc: William Ladusaw, Commission Chair
Justin Atkinson, ALO
Douglas Noll, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Barbara Gross Davis, Vice President
Lori Williams, Vice President