

June 30, 2017

Mr. Jonathan Burke
President
Laguna College of Art and Design
2222 Laguna Canyon Road
Laguna Beach, CA 92651-1136

Dear President Burke:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Laguna College of Art and Design (LCAD) 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 Special Visit to Laguna College of Art and Design on March 28-30, 2017. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by LCAD prior to the Special Visit and the institution's May 4, 2017 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague: Mrs. Nicole Leshner, 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 Special Visit team report that focused on:
 - a. Establishment of a robust Institutional Research function
 - b. Creation of a systematic program review process with appropriate policies and practices in support of that process
 - c. Creation of systems and appointment of personnel to promote the collection, analysis, and use of evidence (data) in support of institutional continuing improvement
 - d. Use of evidence in strategic planning, across all levels of stake holders
 - e. Results of an examination of the organization structure to support a culture of evidence
 - f. Creation of systems to promote educational assessment focusing on the course level.
2. Continue with the next scheduled reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2021 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2022
3. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review in spring 2019

Commendations

The Commission commends LCAD in particular for the following:

1. Actions targeting recommendations from the last WSCUC visit with tangible results;
2. The allocation of resources to assessment and program review, including the position of Director of Assessment and a position dedicated to Institutional Research data base management, the establishment of an Office of Assessment, and a course load reduction for Chairs;
3. Demonstrated enthusiasm for assessment and evidence-based decisions throughout the college at all levels;

4. Leadership in assessment from a variety of stakeholders including Board members, part-time faculty, and students as evidenced by the creation of appropriate processes and effective use of program review.

Recommendations

The Commission identifies the following issues for further development:

1. Continue to develop Institutional Research capacity in ways that inform assessment and program review through the use of disaggregated data to determine how best to support different student populations. (CFR 2.10, 2.13)
2. Ensure ongoing attention to strategic planning so that it informs institutional effectiveness while also taking into account long-term and succession planning. (CFR 3.8, 4.6)
3. Continue to engage all stakeholders, including faculty, staff, and Board members, with assessment, program review and the linkages among individual student performance, program learning outcomes, and institutional learning outcomes. (CFR 2.3, 2.4, 2.7, 2.10).

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of Laguna College of Art and Design 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 LCAD 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 Laguna College of Art and Design 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/ gc

Cc: Bill Ladusaw, Commission Chair
Nicole Leshner, ALO
James Mellor, Board Chair
Members of the Special Visit team
Geoffrey Chase, Vice President