

March 4, 2019

Dr. Heather Kirkpatrick
President
Alder Graduate School of Education
2946 Broadway Street Suite B
Redwood City, CA 94062

Dear President Kirkpatrick:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Alder Graduate School of Education (Alder) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 22, 2019. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 to Alder Graduate School of Education November 13-15, 2018. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Alder Graduate School of Education prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 and the institution's January 17, 2019 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues: Nate Monley, Dean; Monica Bonny, COO/CFO; Shayna Sullivan, Associate Dean; and Gloria Hassel, Senior Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. 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 Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 team report
2. Grant Initial Accreditation for a period of six years
3. Schedule the reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2024 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2024
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review to begin on May 1 2021
5. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by May 1, 2021 to address all requirements in the Commission Action Letter

The Commission commends Alder Graduate School of Education in particular for the following:

1. An impressive, deliberate, and thorough response at every level since SAV1 to all recommendations.
2. Enthusiasm, pride, and passion for the mission of the institution and the impact on the community.
3. A leadership team that has infused throughout Alder a systemic approach to change, including problem identification, benchmarking, system implementation, measurement, and feedback.

4. A board of trustees with an enviable level of skill, background, and engagement.
5. An expansion of staff and doctoral-level faculty that positions Alder well for growth.
6. Exceeding expectations for partnership development, enrollment, and fundraising.

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

1. Continue to build the infrastructure to enable Alder to be an independent institution. [CFR 1.5]
2. Deepen formative assessment practices, including opportunities for students to self-assess and receive iterative instructor feedback to ensure mastery. [CFR 2.6]
3. Building on the clarification of the faculty framework for teaching and scholarship expectations, continue to operationalize the faculty evaluation system that links teaching, scholarship, and service. [CFR 2.9]
4. Develop a detailed facilities plan for on-site student course intensives in a new distributed model. [CFR 3.5]
5. Continue to refine how decisions are made within shared governance to clarify roles, rights and responsibilities. [CFR 3.7]
6. Continue the next phase of the Alder Impact Measures to include data from academic program assessment. [CFRs 4.2 and 4.4]

In taking this action to grant Initial Accreditation, the Commission confirms that Alder Graduate School of Education has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the institutional review process for Initial Accreditation conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, Alder Graduate School of Education should strive for ongoing improvement with adherence to all Standards of Accreditation and their associated CFRs to foster a learning environment that continuously strives for educational excellence and operational effectiveness.

Alder Graduate School of Education must use the following statement if it wishes to describe its accreditation status publicly:

Alder Graduate School of Education is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001.

The accredited status of a program should not be misrepresented. The accreditation granted by WSCUC refers to the quality of the institution as a whole. Because institutional accreditation does not imply specific accreditation of any particular program at the institution, statements such as “this program is accredited” or “this degree is accredited” are incorrect and misleading. The phrase “fully accredited” is also to be avoided, since no partial accreditation is possible.

The Commission stipulates that this action encompasses the degrees offered by Alder Graduate School of Education at the time of this action, as listed at the end of this letter as the Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees. Any proposed new degree programs, off-campus sites, online offerings, and/or changes in governance or ownership require review and approval through the Substantive Change process. Degree programs that have been reviewed and included under this action may be extended to other currently approved campuses of the institution without prior Substantive Change action. Offerings at new locations may need to go through Substantive Change approval, in accordance with the requirements stated in the Substantive Change manual.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of Alder Graduate School of Education's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Alder Graduate School of Education'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 Alder Graduate School of Education 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,



Jamienne S. Studley
President

JSS/mbg

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair
Nate Monley, ALO
Leslie Hume, Board Chair
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit team
Mark B. Goor, Vice President