

July 8, 2020

Dr. Anthony Digiovanni  
President  
Claremont Lincoln University  
150 West First Street  
Claremont, CA 91711

Dear President Digiovanni:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Claremont Lincoln University (ClarLU) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 26, 2020. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Special Visit to ClarLU March 25-27, 2020. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by ClarLU prior to the Special Visit and the institution's May 27, 2020 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Katie Lincoln, Chair, Board of Directors; Lynn Priddy, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs; Joe Sallustio, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President; Joanna Bauer, Interim Dean of Programs; and David Carter, Former Vice President of Academic 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 status with WSCUC.

### **Actions**

1. Receive the Special Visit team report that focused on: (1) demonstrating institutional capacity to achieve and maintain ambitious enrollment and advancement targets; (2) developing multi-year financial projections that consider enrollment, reflect cash needs, and ensure long-term financial sustainability; (3) developing a sustainable multi-year financial model that balances revenues and expenses while maintaining academic quality and integrity; (4) establishing and continuously monitoring program quality metrics; and (5) assessing progress on the search for a new president and board expectations for achievement of key milestones in the president's first year.
2. Remove a Formal Notice of Concern
3. Continue with the previously scheduled reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2021 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2022

The Commission commends Claremont Lincoln University in particular for the following:

1. The board of directors' selection of a president/CEO with notable higher education experience, in particular in leading institutions with strong distance education offerings.
2. The advancement team's close partnership with the president/CEO and board of directors to meet the institution's philanthropic goals, most recently having achieved the 2019 individual giving goal.

3. Senior leaders having implemented and effectively used scenario planning to strengthen nuanced enrollment performance monitoring and data-informed decisions.
4. Senior leaders, in collaboration with the board of directors, having implemented and effectively utilized multi-year financial modeling and key performance indicators for decision making.
5. Increasing institutional capacity to achieve ambitious enrollment and advancement goals by making focused investments in staff and systems.

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

1. Develop a formal contingency plan to complement financial forecasting scenarios should enrollment and/or advancement goals not be achieved.
2. Ensure transparency and involvement of key institutional stakeholders in the hiring of the Vice President of Academic Affairs.
3. Ensure the alignment of curricular and enrollment planning with the institutionalized promotion and implementation of the Claremont Core, with particular focus on learning outcomes.
4. Continue to ensure appropriate staffing and academic support in alignment with new program development and enrollment growth.
5. Monitor the impact of monthly starts on academic quality, retention, and time to completion.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of ClarLU's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the ClarLU 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 Claremont Lincoln University 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/lp

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair  
Lynn Priddy, ALO  
Kathryn Lincoln, Board Chair  
Members of the Special Visit team  
Linda Petersen, Vice President