

July 20, 2018

Robert Brown
President
University of West Los Angeles
9800 S. La Cienega Boulevard
Inglewood, CA 90301-4423

Dear President Brown:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning University of West Los Angeles (UWLA) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 28, 2018. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 to the University of West Los Angeles March 28-29. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by the University of West Los Angeles prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 and the institution's May 18, 2018 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues: Talon Brown, Esq., Dean, School of Business; and Jay Frykberg, Esq., Dean, School of Law and 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 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 fall 2023 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2024
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review to begin May 1, 2021
5. Schedule a Special Visit in spring 2021 to address:
 - a. The appropriateness of the business curriculum, integration of general education curriculum, and student support in the undergraduate business degree (CFRs 2.1, 2.2a, 2.11, 2.13)
 - b. Realistic budget planning based on the strategic plans and enrollment growth of the School of Business with sufficient reserves for unplanned shortfalls (CFR 3.4)
 - c. Planning and implementing a comprehensive, multi-year program review process that includes analysis of quality measures and an external review (CFR 4.1)
 - d. Creating a five-year curricular and co-curricular assessment plan to assure meaningful data analysis that results in strategic closing the loop (CFR 4.1)
 - e. Student borrowing patterns and student indebtedness in relation to persistence and retention.

Commendations

The Commission commends The University of West Los Angeles in particular for the following:

1. The mission that is fully embraced by the faculty, staff, students and Board of Managers.
2. The Board of Managers' commitment, involvement and depth of knowledge. We commend how the Board has expanded to include additional members, enhancing its diversity, energy and independence.
3. The significant progress in the integration of financial information and institutional research into Board and committee decision-making.
4. The significant progress toward maturing as an institution, in particular the breadth and depth of the strategic planning process, which included involvement across the institution.

Recommendations

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

1. Review the undergraduate business coursework to ensure that it is appropriate for a degree completion program. (CFR 2.1)
2. Integrate into the undergraduate business curriculum a general education curriculum that develops and aligns with the WSCUC core competencies at the upper division level. (CFR 2.2a)
3. Align student support with the needs of an undergraduate student population and assessing the effectiveness of those efforts. (CFR 2.11, 2.13)
4. Build realistic budgets and enrollment plans as guided by the strategic plan to ensure long term financial sustainability. Enrollment growth for the School of Business needs to be supported by detailed recruitment plans and sufficient resources to invest in instructional infrastructure and student support services. (CFR 3.4)
5. Build sufficient reserves to be used for unplanned events such as unexpected declines in enrollment or one time-expenses. (CFR 3.4)

6. Plan and implement a comprehensive program review process beyond annual assessment which includes a reflective, program-level self-study. This would involve an analysis of quality measures and an external review visit beyond reviews associated with state accreditation processes. (CFR 4.1)
7. Create a 5-year curricular and co-curricular assessment plan to assure that current data collection and analysis processes are used to close the loop in a meaningful and strategic way. (CFR 4.1)

In taking this action to grant Initial Accreditation, the Commission confirms that University of West Los Angeles has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the institutional review process for Initial Accreditation 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.

Accreditation status is not granted retroactively. The University of West Los Angeles must use the following statement if it wishes to describe its accreditation status publicly:

The University of West Los Angeles 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 the University of West Los Angeles 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 the University of West Los Angeles’ 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 University of West Los Angeles 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 the University of West Los Angeles 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,



Jamiene S. Studley
President

JSS/mbg

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair
Jay Frykberg, ALO
Jay Askari, Board Chair
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit team
Mark Goor, Vice President

Attachment: Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees