

July 20, 2018

Dr. Katrina Rogers  
President  
Fielding Graduate University  
2020 De la Vina Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Dear President Rogers:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Fielding Graduate University (FGU) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 27-29, 2018. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to Fielding Graduate University April 9-12, 2018. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Fielding Graduate University prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's June 6, 2018 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague Steve Schapiro, Dean 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 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 2025 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2026
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review to begin May 1, 2022
5. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by May 1, 2019 to focus on enrollment and finances; schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2020 to address progress on all recommendations in this Commission Action Letter

### **Commendations**

The Commission commends Fielding Graduate University in particular for the following:

1. Clearly and consistently articulating its mission, vision, and academic philosophy, which are expressed in its curriculum, strategic plan, inclusion plan, and support for student services. (CFR 1.1)
2. Implementing a 2017-2020 strategic plan that is well-written with appropriate goals, tactics, and KPIs, aligned with budgeting and resource allocation and with the full engagement of the Board of Trustees. (CFR 4.6)

3. Manifesting its inclusion plan through the development of its inclusion council, resourcing the Building Inclusion Collaborative, and partnering with HBCUs and the Navajo Nation while exploring new programs designed to serve Latinx and African-American communities. (CFR 1.4)
4. A faculty culture committed to relational pedagogy, rigorous academic inquiry, and social justice. (CFR 2.8)
5. Establishing a strong foundation for the pursuit of external funding opportunities to diversify revenue sources while advancing institutional reputation, building partnerships, and supporting faculty scholarship. (CFR 3.4)
6. Identifying and prioritizing the critical personnel required to support the institution's plans for growth. (CFR 3.1)

## **Recommendations**

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

1. Monitor revenue and expenses in light of the ambitious nature of the program expansion plan and the resulting financial deficits. Establish and execute appropriate financial contingency plans, in case projected enrollments are not achieved. (CFRs 3.4, 4.6)
2. Clarify and codify the roles of core and adjunct faculty in shared governance, with appropriate rights and responsibilities accorded to the faculty in the areas of academic policy, curriculum design, the assessment of student learning outcomes, peer review, program review, and program development. (CFRs 2.4, 2.9, 3.10)
3. Recognizing that information technology is fundamental to supporting and sustaining Fielding's distinctive educational enterprise, continue to make good progress on improving IT services, infrastructure, and staffing. Develop an information technology plan with input from all stakeholders designed to maximize the opportunity for meaningful student-faculty engagement and rigorous learning experiences. (CFRs 3.5, 4.6)

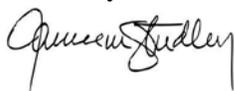
In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that Fielding Graduate University has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. Between this action and the 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 Fielding Graduate University'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 Fielding Graduate University'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 Fielding Graduate 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/mbg

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair  
Steve Schapiro, ALO  
Karen Bogart, Board Chair  
Members of the Accreditation Visit team  
Mark Goor, Vice President