

March 4, 2019

Dr. Jeff Iorg
President
Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention
3210 E. Guasti Road
Ontario, CA 91761-8642

Dear President Iorg:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention (GSSBC) 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 Accreditation Visit to GSSBC November 27-30, 2018. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by GSSBC prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's January 31, 2019 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague Michael Martin, Vice President of Academic Services. 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 ten years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2028 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2028
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review to begin May 1, 2024
5. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by November 1, 2022 to address all recommendations cited in this letter

The Commission commends GSSBC in particular for the following:

1. The leadership and vision to rename and rebrand the institution and relocate it to Southern California.
2. The planned, actualized, and significant improvement in the institution's financial sustainability that has resulted from the sale of the Mill Valley campus and the move to Ontario.
3. Demonstration of strong sense of commitment, community, and common purpose among the faculty and staff, and between faculty and staff and the administration.
4. The thoughtful design of tasteful, modern educational facilities
5. The pursuit of a robust, inclusive, and comprehensive Strategic Planning process that has the potential for significant and positive impact on the future of the institution.

6. The development and implementation of a high quality online program that exhibits best practices in distance education.
7. The intentional and systematic inclusion of online and regional campuses to ensure a cohesive academic program.

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following issues in an Interim Report as specified in this letter with further review at the time of the next reaffirmation process in ten years:

1. Gateway should continue development of educational effectiveness processes and mechanisms to ensure alignment of the Essential Leadership Competencies and program learning outcomes and to refine consistency of language used in assessment of signature assignments. (CFRs 2.2b, 2.3, 2.6)
2. Gateway should create a plan for institutional research that satisfies the need for program and institutional assessment processes, encompasses development of the infrastructure for institutional research, and provides the fiscal resources to implement the plan. (CFRs 2.7, 2.10, 4.2)
3. The institution should provide an increased level of intentional and structured student support services and build and maintain a strong system for tracking effectiveness for all delivery modalities. (CFRs 2.12, 2.13, 4.1)
4. The institution should continue to develop, refine, and utilize retention and graduation data that is consistent with student success research. (CFRs 2.7, 4.1)
5. Gateway should develop a clear understanding of faculty scholarship that aligns with the stated vision of institutional excellence, and is supported by appropriate resource allocation. (CFRs 2.8, 2.9, 3.1, 3.3)
6. The team found GSSBC to be committed to the general principles and expectations of values of diversity, equity, and inclusion consistent with the WSCUC policy of Equity and Inclusion, which had been revised only a month before submission of the Institutional Report. Gateway should now develop and implement a comprehensive diversity plan for administration, faculty, staff, and students. (CFRs 1.4, 4.7)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that GSSBC has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, GSSBC 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.

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

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair
Michael Martin, ALO
Larry Felkins, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Richard Osborn, Vice President