

February 26, 2020

Dr. Pradeep Khosla
Chancellor
University of California San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093

Dear Chancellor Khosla:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning University of California San Diego (UCSD) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 14, 2020. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to UCSD November 20-22, 2019. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by UCSD prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's January 27, 2020 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you through video conference and your colleagues, Dr. Elizabeth Simmons, Executive Vice Chancellor, and Dr. John Moore, ALO and Dean. 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 2029 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2029
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review to begin May 1, 2025
5. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by November 1, 2024 to address all recommendations contained in this letter

The Commission commends UCSD in particular for the following:

1. The exceptional quality of the institutional self-study, which was not just extremely thorough but also showed signs of serious and deep self-reflection.
2. The creation and development of the Teaching + Learning Commons, which is off to a promising start and has the potential for improving both teaching and learning on campus.
3. The strength of the senior leadership team on campus, who have a common vision, are focused on key issues concerning student success, and are working collaboratively and creatively on the challenges and opportunities faced by UCSD.
4. The financial management of the campus, both in terms of a budget and resource allocation model which seems fair and transparent and has improved communication across campus, and in terms of a bold and successful approach to the utilization of financial resources.

5. An intentional focus on strengthening the ties between UCSD and the community, with UCSD's approach to the light rail connection to campus serving as a particular example.
6. A long-term and proactive focus on the future, with a more visionary mode of planning than is typical of many higher education institutions today.

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

1. Continue to focus on the improvement recently seen in graduation rates and in eliminating achievement gaps, with the aim of eliminating achievement gaps and achieving a 75% 4-year graduation rate by UCSD's stated deadline of 2030. (CFR 2.10)
2. Continue to extend engagement in assessment of educational effectiveness; integrate results of assessment into regular program review processes. (CFRs 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9)
3. Assess the many different diversity and student success programs with an eye to identifying which are the most successful and are therefore good candidates for scaling up. (CFRs 2.11, 3.1)
4. Since the University is already close to its Long-Range Development Plan enrollment targets for 2035, resist any pressure or temptation to increase those targets to allow the campus to support current levels of enrollment, though perhaps allowing some room for a very modest increase in undergraduates and a somewhat larger increase in graduate student enrollment. (CFR 3.4)
5. Within the current ceiling of 23% out-of-state undergraduate enrollment, diversify the sources of that enrollment, both in terms of the countries from which international students come and increasing the proportion of students from other states. (CFRs 3.4, 4.7)
6. Identify and deploy the resources necessary to respond to the recent enrollment surge by increasing the capacity of essential student life and academic programs, such as health services, disability services, mental health services, advising, and teaching assistants for heavily enrolled classes. (CFR 2.13)
7. Act on the recommendations of the recent Senate-Administration Workgroup on Holistic Teaching Evaluation to develop a new system for evaluating teaching effectiveness. (CFR 3.2)
8. Address the issues created by the existence of capped majors, making sure at the very least that the information about access to heavily subscribed majors is consistent and that processes for students wishing to major in these fields are consistent, uniform, and reasonable. (CFRs 1.6, 2.10, 2.12)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that UCSD 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, UCSD 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 the Board of Regents for the University of California. A copy of this letter will also be sent to President Napolitano, University of California. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the UCSD'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 UCSD 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/rco

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair
Elizabeth Simmons, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
John Moore, ALO
John Perez, Chair, Board of Regents, University of California
Janet Napolitano, President, University of California
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Richard Osborn, Retired Vice President, Staff Liaison at time of visit
Stephanie Huie, Vice President