

July 12, 2021

Dr. Judy Sakaki
President
Sonoma State University
801 East Cotati Avenue
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Dear President Sakaki:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Sonoma State University (SSU) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 25, 2021. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Special Visit to Sonoma State University March 4-5, 2021. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Sonoma State University prior to the Special Visit and the institution's March 11, 2021 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Stacey Bostick, Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Programs, Melinda Milligan, Director of Assessment and Accreditation, and Karen Moranski, Provost and Vice President for 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) assurance that every degree program has measurable learning outcomes and an assessment plan; (2) adherence to the institution's Program Review Policy 20061; (3) full implementation of a comprehensive strategic planning process; (4) effective use of newly implemented data tools; (5) creation of an IT strategic plan; (6) creation and implementation of a comprehensive diversity plan; and (7) formal articulation of what it means to be a SSU undergraduate or graduate student.
2. Continue with the previously scheduled reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2025 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2025.

The Commission commends Sonoma State University in particular for the following:

1. Implementing a comprehensive strategic plan with aligned budget processes that have had multiple transformative impacts on the campus.

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

1. SSU should continue its attention to policies and practices to achieve the deeper intent of program review: a thoughtful engagement with a process of continuous improvement. The Sonoma State University program review policy and template for self-study highlight the need for program learning outcomes that, in combination with external review and reflection, provide evidence to inform continuous improvement.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of Sonoma State University's governing board. A copy of this letter is also being sent to Chancellor Castro, California State University System. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on Sonoma State 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 Sonoma State 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,



Jamiene S. Studley
President

JSS/cno

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair
Karen Moranski, ALO
Lillian Kimbell, Board Chair
Joseph Castro, Chancellor
Members of the Special Visit team
Christopher N. Oberg, Executive Vice President