# Sonoma State University WSCUC Special Visit, March 4-5, 2021

## Summary of Responses to Key Recommendations

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Sonoma State University (SSU) submitted a report on December 22, 2020 as a follow-up to the Western Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC)’s action letter of March 9, 2018.  SSU has reported on progress regarding all seven recommendation areas from that action letter:

Recommendation #1: Assuring every degree program has measurable learning outcomes and an assessment plan that identifies where the outcomes are being assessed in the curriculum. (CFR 2.4)

Current Status: Each SSU degree program now has measurable learning outcomes and are working to post on websites and list in the catalog. Degree programs must develop assessment plans during program review and curriculum development; MOUs help keep programs accountable.

Recommendation #2: Adhering to the recently approved program review policy 20061. (CFR 2.7)

Current Status: Program review policy formally approved spring 2017 and revised again in 2018. The university program review subcommittee (UPRS) is adhering to the policy.

Recommendation #3: Fully implementing a comprehensive strategic planning process that identifies measurable goals and aligns financial resources with those goals. (CFR 4.6)

Current Status: SSU engaged in intensive strategic planning during 2017-18, finalized in May 2018. Implementation occurred during 2018-19, as all campus units developed strategic plans and instituted tracking processes to measure progress; campus initiated a strategic budgeting process aligning campus financial resources with new strategic priorities.

Recommendation #4: Effectively using newly implemented data tools (like the CSU data dashboards) to enhance student learning and success. (CFR 4.2)

Current Status: SSU’s use of data tools has increased and enabled campus to engage in more data-informed decision-making; initiated office of institutional effectiveness (OIE) headed by an associate vice president; supporting student success and retention through new systems like Tableau, the CSU’s student success dashboard, LoboConnect, and Engage@SSU.

Recommendation #5: Creating an IT strategic plan to improve the student experience and advance the mission and vision of the institution. (CFR 4.6)

Current Status: SSU has aligned its IT and academic technology efforts to drive the new strategic plan’s priorities, mission, and vision. SSU has created both an IT strategic plan and an academic technology strategic plan, effectively creating a two-pronged, collaborative effort to support SSU’s technology needs.

Recommendation #6: Creating and implementing a comprehensive diversity plan. (CFR 1.4)

Current Status: SSU has developed a proposed framework for a comprehensive diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative led by campus’ new chief diversity officer, titled associate vice president for strategic initiatives and diversity. Proposal will be shared with campus for review and feedback during spring 2021 and finalized by fall 2021. Proposal honors the innovative culture that has shaped as abundance of diversity initiatives on campus.

Recommendation #7: Formally articulating what it means to be a SSU undergraduate or graduate student. (CFRs 1.2 and 2.2-2.4)

Current Status: Campus has engaged in large-scale conversations and structural changes that demonstrate a convergence of thinking around the distinguishing features of the undergraduate and graduate student experience through GE reform, graduate studies enhancements, and strategic planning. Within a liberal arts grounding, an SSU student is one who earns a meaningful degree reinforced by experiential learning, interdisciplinary connections, and outward engagement in a community committed to helping them succeed.