

March 9, 2018

Dr. Judy Sakaki  
President  
Sonoma State University  
1801 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 February 14-16, 2018. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to Sonoma State University October 23-26, 2017. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Sonoma State University prior to the Offsite Review (OSR) and the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues: Lisa Vollendorf, Provost and Executive VP, and Karen Moranski, Associate VP 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 spring 2025 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2025
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review for May 1, 2022
5. Schedule a Special Visit in spring 2021 to address the seven recommendations in this letter

### **Commendations**

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

1. A strong sense of community as reflected in connecting students to services, personalized recruitment, and the rollout of the NomaCares program following the recent fires.
2. The ASPIRE committee for its collaborative efforts to bring together assessment expertise across schools and colleges.
3. Tangible results in integrating the Green Music Center into the campus and community and for leveraging this resource to advance the public liberal arts mission of the institution.

4. The commitment to an institution-wide strategic planning process and to the alignment of financial resources with the identified strategic priorities.
5. Realignment of IT resources to better support the instructional mission of the institution.
6. Robust first- and second-year experience programs and other high impact practices,
7. President Sakaki for fostering a climate of collaboration and stakeholder engagement.
8. The academic senate for its willingness to work actively with new SSU leadership for the benefit of students and the advancement of the institution's mission.

## **Recommendations**

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

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)
2. Adhering to the recently approved Program Review Policy 20061. (CFR 2.7)
3. Fully implementing a comprehensive strategic planning process that identifies measurable goals and aligns financial resources with those goals. (CFR 4.6)
4. Effectively using newly implemented data tools (like the CSU data dashboards) to enhance student learning and success. (CFR 4.2)
5. Creating an IT strategic plan to improve the student experience and advance the mission and vision of the institution. (CFR 4.6)
6. Creating and implementing a comprehensive diversity plan. (CFR 1.4)
7. Formally articulating what it means to be a SSU undergraduate or graduate student. (CFRs 1.2 and 2.2-2.4)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that Sonoma State 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 Sonoma State University's governing board in one week. A copy of this letter will also be sent to Chancellor Timothy White. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Sonoma State University 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, especially in light of the timing of the site visit soon after the tragic fires that affected the SSU community so deeply. 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/cno

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair  
Karen Moranski, ALO  
Rebecca Eisen, Board Chair  
Timothy White, Chancellor, CSU System  
Members of the Accreditation Visit team  
Christopher N. Oberg, Vice President