

July 14, 2023

Dr. Howard Gillman
Chancellor
University of California, Irvine
510 Aldrich Hall
Irvine, CA 92697-1000

Dear Chancellor Gillman:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the University of California, Irvine (UCI) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 30, 2023. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation (TPR) Accreditation Visit to UCI February 15-17, 2023. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by UCI prior to the Accreditation Visit and the institution's April 27, 2023, response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Hal Stern, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, Paul Kang, Associate Vice Provost, Division of Academic Planning and ALO, Lars Walton, Associate Chancellor and Chief of Staff, Roxane Cohen Silver, Vice Provost, Academic Planning and Institutional Research, Rodrigo Lazo, Interim Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and Gillian Haves, Vice Provost and Graduate Division 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 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 fall 2032 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2033
4. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by November 1, 2027 to address progress in these areas:
 - a. In line with the goals and initiatives of the Office of Inclusive Excellence, develop a sustainable, coordinated infrastructure for equity, diversity and inclusion supported by allocated resources, defined timelines, and measurable milestones.
 - b. Assess the effects of the changing financial landscape on faculty and staff recruitment and retention, as well as on student success.

The Commission commends UCI in particular for the following:

1. The tremendous growth and diversification of UCI's student body, both undergraduate and graduate, that has occurred over the last decade, with a clear focus on expanding its public service mission while maintaining and increasing its academic and research excellence.
2. The development of innovative strategies to increase the diversity of its graduate student population, particularly the highly effective cluster recruitment of graduate students, which has accelerated graduate student diversification.
3. The unwavering dedication of faculty, administrators, and staff to the institution, and most notably to its diverse student population.
4. The development and implementation of a range of strategies to support and improve instruction including the creation of the Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation, the Anteater Learning Pavilion, and a wide range of instructor training and support.
5. The breadth of UCI's data, the sophistication of its data infrastructure, and the clear commitment to using data to inform planning and decision-making.
6. The use of self-study data to help guide UCI's response to the pandemic by using the findings to gauge how student learning, well-being, and engagement have been affected during this period.
7. The impressive array of online graduate degree programs carefully designed to be engaging and inclusive.

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

1. In line with UCI's stated commitment to diversity and the diversification of the faculty and senior administration, articulate how the university is enhancing efforts to better align the faculty and senior administration with the diversity of the student body. (CFR 1.4, Equity and Inclusion Policy, Equity and Inclusion Guide)
2. Consistent with the aims and activities of the Office of Inclusive Excellence, develop a sustainable, coordinated infrastructure for equity, diversity, and inclusion supported by allocated resources, defined timelines, and measurable milestones. (CFRs 1.4, 3.1, Equity and Inclusion Policy, Equity and Inclusion Guide)
3. Assess the effects of the changing financial landscape on faculty and staff recruitment and retention, as well as on student success. (CFR 3.4)

The Commission appreciated learning about the work that is underway to address these issues.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of the University of California governing board. A copy of this letter will also be sent to President Michael Drake. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the UCI 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 the University of California, Irvine 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/bgd

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Immediate Past Chair
Tracy Poon Tambascia, Chair
Paul Kang, ALO
Rich Leib, Board Chair
Michael Drake, President, University of California
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Barbara Gross Davis, Vice President