

July 11, 2022

Dr. Joseph Jones
President
Fresno Pacific University
1717 South Chestnut Avenue
Fresno, CA 93702

Dear President Jones:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Fresno Pacific University (FPU) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 24, 2022. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to FPU March 15-18, 2022. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by FPU prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's June 10, 2022 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues G. Gayle Copeland, Provost/Senior Vice President and Gregory Zubacz, Associate Provost. 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 fall 2029 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2030
4. Schedule a Special Visit in spring 2024 to address:
 - a. accelerated progress on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - b. program review.
 - c. faculty collective responsibility for assessment.

The Commission commends FPU in particular for the following:

1. The institution has structured its goals of Grow, Engage, Innovate, Serve, and Transform (GEIST) in a well-articulated and organized manner. The Board has extended GEIST as the FPU strategic plan framework until 2025 which shows the significance and shared understanding of the validity and importance of these goals.
2. The financial position of the university has improved since the last WSCUC visit. The new arts center is fully paid for and will be a significant addition to the

campus community as an event and gathering space, and an organic link to the wider Fresno community.

3. The university has developed the Diversity Rationale and Diversity Plan. As the institution grows and encompasses greater diversity within its student body, staff, faculty, and administration, these will be the foundational documents for further progress on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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

1. Accelerate progress on key issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion as has been recommended by WSCUC since 2014. Ensure the participation of the full range of campus stakeholders, including the Board of Trustees, executive leadership, administration, faculty, staff, and students. Accelerated progress should include the following:
 - a. Finalize the institution-wide definition of diversity, equity, and inclusion and ensure that it is consistent with FPU's mission and purpose;
 - b. Align the university diversity plan with the institution-wide definition and ensure appropriate leadership, accountability and infrastructure to create a more inclusive environment that addresses diversity, equity and inclusion issues identified by campus constituents particularly in the safety and welcoming of all student populations;
 - c. Clearly define the responsibilities, authority and reporting relationship of the Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) and operationalize the job description according to the university diversity plan. (CFR 1.4, WSCUC Equity and Inclusion Policy)
2. Evaluate the program review process addressing the following:
 - a. Ensure faculty partnership in the development of program review documentation, guides, and templates;
 - b. Review the data included in the program review process to ensure that it is relevant and accurate;
 - c. Clarify oversight and accountability structures to ensure the implementation of the program review cycle such that every program is participating and completing its program review in the prescribed time frame. (CFRs 2.1, 2.7, 4.1, 4.4, 4.5)
3. Ensure that faculty take collective responsibility for establishing appropriate standards of performance and demonstrate systematic assessment of the achievement of these standards, with special attention to the following areas:
 - a. Clarify assessment oversight and accountability structures and ensure that faculty demonstrate ownership of assessment;
 - b. Review the data included in the assessment process to ensure that it is relevant, accurate, and has integrity;
 - c. Ensure that faculty are appropriately trained on the use of the assessment management system;
 - d. Ensure that all programs have an appropriate assessment plan developed and implemented to ensure sufficient assessment data is available for use

in ongoing quality assurance activities and periodic program review.
(CFRs 2.4, 2.6, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that FPU addressed the three Core Commitments and successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, FPU 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 is being sent to the chair of FPU's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the FPU'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 FPU 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/thh

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair
Gregory Zubacz, ALO
Joshua Wilson, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Tamela Hawley, Vice President