

March 3, 2021

Dr. Jane Close Conoley  
President  
California State University, Long Beach  
1250 Bellflower Blvd  
Long Beach, CA 90840-0115

Dear President Conoley:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 19, 2021. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation (TPR) of Accreditation Visit to CSULB October 21-23, 2020. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by CSULB prior to the Accreditation Visit, and the institution's December 15, 2020 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Brian Jersky, Chief Academic Officer, Jody Cormack, Vice Provost Academic Programs and Dean of Graduate Studies, Sharlene Sayegh, Director of Institutional Assessment and Accreditation Liaison Officer, John Hamilton, Assistant Vice President, University Access and Retention, and Neal Schnoor, Chief of Staff. 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 ten years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2030 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2030

The Commission commends CSULB in particular for the following:

1. The university's ability to pivot quickly in responding to a rapidly changing environment and providing students with much needed support and guidance through, for example, the Beach Guide program established last summer which mobilized 182 volunteers across all divisions of the university to provide online mentoring to 2,500 new students this fall.
2. The culture of mutual respect evident across its campus and programs, notably between its student affairs and academic affairs areas, as exemplified by their collaborative spirit and commitment to supporting students and helping them progress academically and graduate in timely fashion.

3. The depth and breadth of its academic and other student support services, targeted to the varying needs of its very diverse student body, and for the resulting improvements in undergraduate graduation rates.
4. The broadening of academic program review processes to include inquiry into the effectiveness of student support programs and administrative centers.
5. The approach to supporting the success of graduate students, who receive academic advising, guidance in writing, mental health workshops, preparation for internships, and conference opportunities, and for the planned expansion of graduate student space.
6. The continuing commitment to the local community, exemplified by the Promise program, which has raised the percentage of local area students entering the university and fostered close partnership between CSULB and Long Beach City College that includes enhanced advising and support for transfer students.

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

1. Continue to encourage broader use of its digital data collection and analysis capacity across its academic and administrative units in order to close opportunity gaps for students. (CFR 2.10, 4.3)
2. Ensure that all students, especially first-generation, Pell-eligible students, and students with diverse backgrounds, engage in multiple high impact practices. (CFR 2.2, 2.5)
3. Continue efforts to integrate results of assessment into program review processes and be flexible in supporting faculty in finding ways of pursuing inquiry meaningful in the academic context of their programs; focus on processes for assessment that lead to actionable changes to improve student learning, student achievement, and overall educational effectiveness. (CFR 2.4, 2.7, 3.3)
4. Explore difficult issues around systemic racism and unconscious bias and devise an action plan to support its aspiration to serve as a model for inclusion and equity. (CFR 1.4, 3.2, 4.3)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that CSULB addressed the three Core Commitments and successfully completed the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, CSULB 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 CSULB's governing board. A copy of this letter is also being sent to Chancellor Joseph Castro, California State University. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the CSULB'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 California State University, Long Beach undertook in preparing for the 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,



Jamienne S. Studley  
President

JSS/lp

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair  
Sharlene Sayegh, ALO  
Lillian Kimbell, Board Chair  
Joseph Castro, Chancellor  
Members of the TPR Accreditation Visit team  
Linda Petersen, Vice President