

March 8, 2022

Dr. Erika Beck
President
California State University, Northridge
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330-8230

Dear President Beck:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning California State University, Northridge (CSUN) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 25, 2022. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation (TPR) Accreditation Visit to CSUN October 6 – 8, 2021. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by CSUN prior to the Accreditation Visit, and the institution’s November 1, 2021 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Mary Beth Walker, Provost; and Matthew Cahn, Vice Provost and Accreditation Liaison Officer (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 ten years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2031 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2031
4. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by November 1, 2027 to address all the requirements listed in this letter, with a particular focus on “road mapping” to build a strategic focus on the university’s student success goals.

The Commission commends CSUN in particular for the following:

1. Authentic and widespread commitment to student success, reflected by CSUN’s effort to invest resources and update relevant organizational structures.
2. Substantive progress in revamping advising practices, particularly related to first year students (e.g. the Matador Advising Hub, the EOP structure integrated across college-based advising).
3. Commitment, investment, and progress in improving capacity for generating and providing student success data.

4. Significant progress in supporting institutional sustainability through diversified funding sources including philanthropic engagement, capital campaigns, and private-public partnerships.

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

1. Clarify and operationalize the institution's definition of "student success." Identify common language and shared definitions, develop concrete objectives, and specify strategies to achieve the objectives with demonstrable milestones to track progress. (CFR 2.4, 2.7, 2.10, 2.11, 4.3, 4.4)
2. Develop collaborations, coalitions, and communication strategies across divisions, departments, and stakeholders to move beyond the shared goal of "student success" to implement and assess student success strategies. (CFR 4.1, 4.5, 4.6)
3. Build a culture of evidence for data-informed decision-making, regularly evaluating the effectiveness of student success initiatives that support goals for accountability. (CFR 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5)
4. Extend the thoughtful planning and implementation process used for freshmen advising to provide equitable advising structures for other students (e.g. upper division, transfer, graduate, and part-time students). (CFR 2.12, 2.13)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that CSUN 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, CSUN 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 California State University's governing board. A copy of this letter is also being sent to Acting Chancellor Relyea, California State University. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the CSUN'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, Northridge 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,



Jamiene S. Studley
President

JSS/mam

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair
Matthew Cahn, ALO
Lillian Kimbell, Board Chair
Steven Relyea, Acting Chancellor
Members of the TPR Accreditation Visit team
Maureen A Maloney, Vice President