

Feb 26, 2020

Dr. Carroll Ryan  
President  
American University of Health Sciences  
1600 East Hill Street, Building #1  
Signal Hill, CA 90755

Dear President Ryan:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning American University of Health Sciences (AUHS) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 14, 2020. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Special Visit to AUHS October 1 – 3, 2019. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by AUHS prior to the Special Visit and the institution's December 17, 2019 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Dr. Marilyn Uvero, Vice President/COO, Dr. David Turbow, Director of Institutional Research, and Ms. Ivy Javaluyas, Director 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 status with WSCUC.

### **Actions**

1. Receive the Special Visit team report that focused on: (1) Formally embedding the Institutional Learning Outcome of Christian values throughout the curriculum (CFR 2.2); faculty ownership of the assessment process and their use of disaggregated student achievement results to make improvements (CFR 2.3, 2.4); (3) the tenure and effectiveness of the institution's executive leadership (CFR 3.1, 3.6, 3.8); and (4) institutional research (IR) and assessment system reviews that evaluate and ensure capacity (CFR 4.2)
2. Continue with the previously scheduled reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2022 and Accreditation Visit in spring 2023
3. Continue with the previously scheduled Mid-Cycle Review to begin May 1, 2020

The Commission commends AUHS in particular for the following:

- 1) Defining Christian values as a student outcome in ways that allow the university to formally embed the values within the curriculum and assess them at the course, program, and institutional levels.
- 2) Faculty ownership of the assessment of student learning and authentic engagement in the continuous improvement process.

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

- 1) Executive leadership continuity including support for them to focus on the vision and strategies needed for the long-term direction and success of the university. (CFR 3.6, 3.8, 4.7)
- 2) Faculty workload to ensure retention of quality faculty who will have the capacity to deliver the demanding curricula in a sustainable and continuous way, and the time to assess and analyze student learning. (CFR 3.1, 3.2)
- 3) Assessment of institutional effectiveness that goes beyond data collection and implementation of complicated processes to analysis that aligns with mission and the distinctive students AUHS serves and is used for planning and decision-making. (CFR 4.1, 4.2, 4.4)

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of AUHS's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the AUHS'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 American University of Health Sciences 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/mam

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair  
Ivy Javaluyas, ALO  
Suzanne Richards, Board Chair  
Members of the Special Visit team  
Maureen A. Maloney, Vice President