

July 18, 2024

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 June 28, 2024. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to AUHS May 3-5, 2023. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by AUHS prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's June 16, 2023 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Kim Dang, Founder; Marilyn Uvero, Executive Vice President and Provost; Nicole Leshner, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness; Arjun Dutta, School of Pharmacy Dean; Sandy Sarge, Chief Financial Officer (CFO); and Ivy Javaluyas, Executive Director of Student Services 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.

On July 14, 2023, WSCUC deferred a decision about reaffirmation of accreditation based on an action taken by the Accreditation Council of Pharmacy Education (ACPE) placing AUHS' pharmacy program on probation while remaining accredited. Two members of the WSCUC reaffirmation review team conducted a prompt review during summer and fall, 2023 to discern if ACPE's action revealed evidence that AUHS was at risk of being or out of compliance with WSCUC Standards. A summary of the team members' findings and recommendation and the plan to proceed to the June 2024 consideration of the institution's accreditation status were presented to the Executive Committee (EC) of the Commission on December 11, 2023. The review prepared the way for WSCUC to bring forward this action on AUHS reaffirmation.

### **Actions**

1. Receive the Accreditation Visit team report
2. Reaffirm accreditation for a period of six years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2028 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2029

4. Schedule a Special Visit in fall 2026 to address all the requirements in this letter.

The Commission commends AUHS in particular for the following:

1. Building an institutional culture based on foundational values, which supports a commitment to community service and integrity.
2. Aligning learning outcomes at the course, program, and institutional levels and mapping program learning outcomes with programmatic accreditor expectations.
3. Committing to student success exemplified by the Center for Academic Success that monitors and provides interventions for at-risk students, contributing to consistently high graduation rates.
4. Establishing Interprofessional Education and state-of-the-art simulation learning environments.
5. Committing to a diverse profile of faculty, students, and staff.
6. Investing in facility renovations that prioritize the learning experience.

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

1. Codify and document assessment that goes beyond data collection to analysis aligned with the mission and strategic plan that is disaggregated and generates actionable results. (CFR 1.1, 4.1, 4.2, 4.6)
2. Design financial planning and development to regularly prioritize university needs, assure appropriate institutional autonomy, resolve any conflicts of interest, and reflect the accountability and lines of authority of institutional leadership. (CFR 1.5, 3.4, 3.7)
3. Memorialize guidelines for the sole shareholder's distributions from and contributions to the university, and document contributions and distributions for regular board review. (CFR 1.5, 3.4, 3.7, 3.9)
4. Establish key performance indicators (KPIs) for all outcomes and identify an optimal mix of direct and indirect measures for each outcome that will result in informed decision making while reducing both labor and reliance on indirect satisfaction measures. (CFR 2.10, 4.1, 4.2)
5. Evaluate the business plan for strategic growth regularly to quantify investment of resources (physical, financial, and human) to support successful implementation and sustainability of initiatives. (CFR 3.4)
6. Increase faculty retention supporting the continuity of academic programs and effective teaching, research, and assessment of student learning to optimize the student experience. (CFR 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)
7. Institutionalize the codification and application of policies, practices, procedures, and accountability, including a functioning audit committee of the Board. (CFR 3.4, 3.7, 3.9)
8. Develop a sustainable, comprehensive infrastructure for achieving the institution's equity, diversity and inclusion goals that includes shared principles across all constituencies and is supported by appropriate resources. (CFR 1.4, 3.4)

9. Provide notification to WSCUC of changes in the institution's programmatic accreditation status with any federally recognized professional or specialty accrediting agencies and the basis for the change. (CFR 1.8)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that AUHS successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, AUHS 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 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: Tracy Poon Tambascia, Commission Chair  
Ivy Javaluyas, ALO  
Suzanne Richards, Board Chair  
Members of the Accreditation Visit team  
Maureen A Maloney, Vice President