July 2, 2019

Bruno Gilberti
Accreditation Liaison Officer
California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo
One Grand Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0006

Dear ALO Gilberti:

We appreciate receiving your proposal for the Thematic Pathway Review (TPR). Below we provide some general comments that emerged from reading all the proposals and specific feedback related to your submission.

WSCUC staff reviewed the twelve thematic proposals submitted from the second cohort of institutions with Accreditation Visits scheduled for spring 2021, fall 2021, and spring 2022. The proposals represent a wide range of issues and topics and address important and meaningful questions that will engage institutions with complex issues. Some common themes were student success, equity, inclusion and diversity, and curriculum issues. Themes were developed through inclusive processes with multiple feedback loops involving key stakeholders, and proposals were well aligned with CFRs. Some but not all proposals had clear timetables for completion of the work and expected deliverables. We also found that many were of a degree of complexity and comprehensiveness such that they are probably not fully achievable by the date of the visit. As you move forward, we ask that you carefully consider what can reasonably be accomplished by the time of your institutional report and visit. Please share this question with your planning committees. A timeline may help to focus your work, if you don’t already have one. Additionally, the success of an institution’s work can best be evaluated if there are specific outcomes, evidence of whether outcomes are achieved, and an indication of how the results have been used. Teams look for analysis and reflection, not just description.

In terms of specific feedback, we note the following. California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) has been concerned for many years about the success of its diversity and inclusion efforts. The proposed theme which has been accepted focuses on “Promoting the Success of All Cal Poly Students While Achieving the Goals of the CSU’s Graduation Initiative 2025” with sub themes: 1) recruiting and retaining a more diverse community of students, staff, and faculty; 2) developing a campus culture that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive; and 3) teaching and learning how to live and work in a diverse world. Because this theme with its sub themes focuses on a Cal Poly priority, combined with goals established by the California State University system, the institution will be focusing on a great need for the campus, making this a very value added process.
As Cal Poly moves forward, clearer definitions of the specific goals to be achieved and those anticipated still being in progress at the time of the visit should be clearly enunciated. How will the team assess the effectiveness and success of the proposed theme? These will need to be very clearly defined in upcoming months and in the institutional report.

The TPR Guide is here: https://wascsenior.box.com/s/iqp070yb021d9jyg6zm5q88p7kyn7a58, and includes suggestions for how to organize your institutional report. Make sure to schedule your institutional training with me; I visit the campus 18 – 24 months before a review and meet with various constituents to orient them to the TPR review process. We can collaborate together to customize this visit in ways that works best for your institution.

We continue to try and learn from one another as we implement this new review process. If you are willing to share your proposal with other institutions approved for TPR please email me with confirmation.

Thank you for all of your work. We look forward to your reflection of the impact of your work in the institutional report. As always, feel free to follow up with me if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to collaborating on this important process.

All the best,

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