

July 11, 2022

Dr. Jeffrey Armstrong
President
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
1 Grand Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

Dear President Armstrong:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (CalPolySLO) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 24, 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 California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo April 27-29, 2022. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo prior to the Accreditation Visit, and the institution's June 8, 2022 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs; Bruno Giberti, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Planning; Andrew D. Morris, Faculty Fellow, Office of Academic Programs and Planning; and Maureen O'Connor, Executive Assistant and Personnel Analyst. 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 fall 2031 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2032
4. Schedule a Special Visit in spring 2025 to address:
 - a. Continued progress on initiatives intended to increase student diversity and equity, including Cal Poly Scholars and partner high school programs.
 - b. Progress in development of an integrated and cohesive DEI plan.

The Commission commends California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in particular for the following:

1. Undertaking the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation and selecting themes focused on diversity, equity, inclusion and access, a challenging approach that has helped to solidify the institution's collective commitment to these issues.
2. The passion and dedication of Cal Poly students to advocate and articulate their DEI vision and experience, and the support provided by faculty and staff.
3. Campus leadership for their renewed engagement with local city, community, and alumni to develop jobs and businesses that promote acceptance and appreciation for diversity and value inclusion and equity.
4. DEI student-centered programs such as the Cal Poly Scholars and faculty-mentored DEI student research projects, such as the BEACoN Scholars Programs and other college-based research opportunities.
5. The Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology (CTLT), an institutional strength and key contributor to transforming the culture of teaching and learning at Cal Poly in support of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
6. The strong campus culture of learning outcomes assessment, as demonstrated by intentional bridge-building between student and academic affairs, robust program review processes and outcomes, and implementation of institution-wide Diversity Learning Outcomes.

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

1. Working with all campus constituents, strengthen Cal Poly's aspirational and inspirational DEI vision through development of an integrated, cohesive, data-informed DEI plan that includes metrics beyond graduation and retention rates, with an emphasis on anti-racism. (CFRs 1.4, 2.10 and 3.1)
2. Strengthen the partnership between academic and student affairs to maintain momentum in executing a DEI plan. (CFRs 1.4 and 2.11)
3. Develop procedures to provide appropriate access to disaggregated data and use the data to critically evaluate and refine DEI initiatives in support of student success. (CFRs 2.11 and 4.2)
4. Continue to gauge and improve campus climate and the Cal Poly community's sense of belonging. (CFR 2.10)
5. Accelerate the processes for diversifying faculty and staff hires with attention to attrition, retention, and compensation. (CFRs 1.4, 3.1 and 3.2)
6. Address the critical need to ensure necessary staff capacity, training and expertise to provide continuity to student services designed to support and enhance DEI. (CFRs 1.4, 2.13 and 3.3)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo 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, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo 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 board of trustees. A copy of this letter is also being sent to Interim Chancellor Koester, California State University. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo'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 Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo 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/so

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair
Bruno Giberti, ALO
Wenda Fong, CSU Board of Trustees Chair
Jolene Koester, Interim CSU Chancellor
Members of the TPR Accreditation Visit team
Susan Opp, Vice President