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**PRESIDENT**  
Mary Ellen Petrisko

March 2, 2016

Dr. George Blumenthal  
Chancellor  
University of California at Santa Cruz  
1156 High Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Dear Chancellor Blumenthal:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 17-19, 2016. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to UCSC October 13-15, 2015. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by the university prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team following the OSR, and the institution's January 22, 2016 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the review with you and your colleague Herbie Lee, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs 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 reaffirmation with WSCUC.

### **Actions**

1. Receive the Accreditation Visit team report.
2. Reaffirm the accreditation of the University of California at Santa Cruz for ten years.
3. Schedule the Offsite Review for spring 2025 and the Accreditation Visit for fall 2025.
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review for spring 2021.
5. Schedule an Interim Report for November 1, 2019 to review progress on the following issues cited in the team report:
  - a. An update on the Center for Innovations in Teaching and Learning.
  - b. Evidence that the assessment of student learning has been incorporated into the program review process.
  - c. The status of an evaluation of the first-year experience.
  - d. Enrollment figures for graduate students for 2015-2016 through 2018-2019 and an indication of the percentage of students receiving financial support in each of those four years.
  - e. The most recent aggregated and disaggregated graduation rates for undergraduate students, and changes, if any, that have occurred since 2014-2015.

## **Commendations**

The Commission endorses the commendations cited in the team report and especially commends the University of California at Santa Cruz for the following:

1. Maintaining a unique university whose mission is to combine the breadth and scope of a world-class public research institution with outstanding undergraduate education in a residential living and learning environment.
2. Focusing on access that has led to the enrollment of a high proportion of Pell eligible and first generation students, and for achieving Hispanic Serving Institution status.
3. Increasing 6-year graduation rates and closing the gap in rates for underrepresented minority students and first generation students, while growing the student population and increasing diversity.
4. Strengthening the collaboration between advising leadership and campus advisors that has led to improved services for first year students and greater coordination between the colleges and divisions.
5. Creating a process that successfully engages faculty in the assessment of student learning.

## **Recommendations**

The Commission identifies the following areas for further development:

1. Place greater attention, in this time of constrained resources, to the growth agenda, particularly around issues of graduate student support, advisor to student ratios, availability of critical courses, and how to align new faculty FTE to student enrollments. (CFRs 2.12, 2.13, 3.1, 3.4)
2. In what may be a long period of fiscal constraints, continue the process of investing in development and exploring additional sources of revenue outside of state support and tuition. (CFR 3.4)
3. Undertake an evaluation of the first-year experience in order to determine whether it is meeting the university's goals for improved student academic success, retention, and timely graduation. (CFRs 2.10, 2.11, 2.13)
4. Establish and resource a center for teaching and learning to enable curricular innovation, online and hybrid education, and teaching assistant preparation. The Commission is pleased to learn that the university is in the process of establishing a Center for Innovations in Teaching and Learning (CFRs 2.8, 3.3)
5. Ensure that recent successes in creating a culture of assessment are sustainable through adequate staffing, technical support, and appropriate recognition of faculty contributions. Critical to this is

integrating the results of student learning assessment into the program review process. (CFRs 2.4, 2.7-2.9, 3.1)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that the University of California at Santa Cruz has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. Between this action and the time of the next review for reaffirmation, the institution is encouraged to continue its progress, particularly with respect to student learning and success.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent in one week to the chair of the chair of the Board of Regents and the president of the University of California. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the UCSC website and widely disseminated 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 the University of California at Santa Cruz undertook in preparing for and supporting this accreditation review. WSCUC is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while assuring public accountability, and we are grateful 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,



Mary Ellen Petrisko  
President

cc: William Ladusaw, WSCUC Commission Chair  
Herbert Lee, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Monica Lozano, Chair of the Board of Regents  
Janet Napolitano, President of the University of California  
Members of the Accreditation Visit team  
Barbara Gross Davis, WSCUC Staff Liaison