

July 14, 2023

Dr. Christopher Spohn
President
University of Silicon Valley
191 Baypointe Parkway
San Jose, CA 95134

Dear President Spohn:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning University of Silicon Valley (USV) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 30, 2023. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to University of Silicon Valley March 8-10, 2023. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by University of Silicon Valley prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's May 17, 2023 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Adam Ruch, Interim Provost and ALO; Ilona Kreynis, CFO; Reba Smith, Chief Compliance Officer; Eric Rajasalu, VP Enrollment; and Adam Forrest, VP Operations. 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 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 spring 2025 to address all requirements in this Commission Action Letter.
5. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by May 1, 2024 to address:
 - a. enrollment and a marketing plan.
 - b. retention and graduation rates.
 - c. the 2024-25 operating budget.
 - d. the implementation of DEI initiatives.

The Commission commends the University of Silicon Valley in particular for the following:

1. Exhibiting a student-centered culture at all levels of the university.

2. Demonstrating a collaborative and high touch approach by student support personnel to promote student success.
3. Employing dedicated and passionate faculty with industry expertise.
4. Displaying a commitment to assessment of student learning.
5. Offering a variety of supported co-curricular activities responsive to student interests and in alignment with the university's mission.
6. Utilizing lessons learned from the WSCUC Substantive Change process to inform the Self-study and Institutional Report.
7. Communicating with WSCUC regularly and transparently, particularly regarding recent leadership changes.

The Commission requires the University of Silicon Valley to respond to the following issues:

1. Broaden the efforts to achieve financial sustainability beyond the focus on current branding process and new web development by including a marketing and strategic enrollment plan, diversification of revenue, and improved retention. (CFR 3.4)
2. Develop and implement system-wide action plans to improve graduation and employment rates with special attention to outcomes for historically underserved students. Use an integrated approach to course scheduling across all programs to assure timely progress to graduation. (CFR 2.10)
3. Build a systematic approach to online education based on academic rigor, sound pedagogy, and grounded in distance education instructional design principles. Select courses suitable for online delivery that meet expected learning outcomes. (CFRs 2.1, 3.3)
4. Create and launch actionable strategies to build community among all university stakeholders through the efforts of the recently developed Diversity Equity Belonging and Inclusion Committee. (CFR 1.4)
5. Increase faculty with capacity and responsibility to guide curriculum development and assessment to achieve the institution's educational objectives and academic operations. Support all faculty through competitive compensation and orientation to their teaching roles. (CFRs 2.1, 3.1, 3.2)
6. Provide relevant faculty development that fosters instructional expertise for all modalities. (CFR 3.3, 3.5)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that University of Silicon Valley addressed the three Core Commitments and successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, University of Silicon Valley 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 University of Silicon Valley's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the University of Silicon Valley'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 University of Silicon Valley 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/mbg

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Immediate Past Chair
Tracy Poon Tambascia, Chair
Adam Ruch, ALO
Scott McKinley, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Mark B. Goor, Vice President