

July 11, 2022

Mr. John Gotanda
President
Hawaii Pacific University
500 Ala Moana Boulevard
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear President Gotanda:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) 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 Accreditation Visit to Hawaii Pacific University February 8-11, 2022. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Hawaii Pacific University prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's April 27, 2022 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Jennifer Walsh, Provost; David Kostecki, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; and Valentina Abordonado, Assistant Provost. 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. Remove a Formal Notice of Concern
4. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2027 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2028
5. Schedule a Special Visit in spring 2024 to address all requirements in this letter
6. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by March 1, 2023 to address:
 - a. new program enrollment and net tuition generation.
 - b. update on all new programs under development.
 - c. demonstration of continuing compliance with debt covenants.
 - d. update on relocation of Hawaii Loa campus and rehabilitation of Makapu'u campus.

The Commission commends Hawaii Pacific University in particular for the following:

1. Consistent incorporation of the three Hawaiian values: *pono* (righteous, honest, moral, to do the right thing; be in a state of balance with oneself, others, the land, work, and life itself); *kuleana* (personal sense of responsibility for self and others); and *aloha* (regard/treat one another with love and respect).
2. Dedicated commitment and active engagement of the board of trustees.
3. Identification of new programs with the goal of improving financial sustainability.
4. Engagement of undergraduate and graduate students in research including creative alignment with the university's physical location at the Makapu'u campus.
5. Dedication demonstrated by the entire campus community to promote the health and welfare of students throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. Ongoing commitment to serving the educational needs of students in the armed forces on military bases in Hawaii.

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

1. Strengthen financial sustainability through increased net tuition revenue. (CFR 3.4)
2. Improve financial stability by diversifying revenue streams, improving the effectiveness of fundraising, and reducing debt. (CFR 3.4)
3. Develop accurate revenue, enrollment, and timeline projections of new degree programs based on evidence-based assumptions and data, and on realistic assessments of specialized accreditation requirements. (CFR 3.4)
4. Complete windward island relocation and improvement to ensure adequate capacity for academic program quality (both new and continuing). (CFRs 3.4 and 3.5)
5. Promote faculty development to ensure academic quality of degree programs and effectively manage workload of faculty to support integrity of all degree programs. (CFR 3.3)
6. While in pursuit of new graduate degree programs: (a) sustain focus on legacy degree programs, (b) remain true to university mission, and (c) continue to maintain academic quality of undergraduate programs through systematic assessments of teaching and learning. (CFR 4.3)
7. Provide evidence of direct role of faculty in curriculum design and ongoing assessment of student learning in support of all academic programs, including OPM programs. (CFR 2.4)
8. Design, deliver, and assess the effectiveness of co-curricular programs, including academic support programs, for both undergraduate and graduate students, and use results for improvement. (CFRs 2.10, 2.11, 3.5, and 4.1)
9. Develop appropriate staff capacity and institutional infrastructure to more effectively ensure equitable educational outcomes among the highly diverse student population. (CFRs 1.4, 2.10, 3.1, and 4.1)

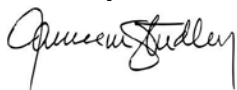
10. Promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in alignment with mission and strategic plan, throughout all levels of the institution following systematic assessments and campus wide consultation. (CFRs 1.4, 2.10, 4.1, 4.5, and 4.6)
11. Continue efforts to assess faculty, staff, and student satisfaction and campus climate regularly in order to make informed improvements in the living-learning-working environment. (CFRs 2.13, 3.2, 4.1, and 4.3)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that Hawaii Pacific University 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, Hawaii Pacific University 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 Hawaii Pacific University's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on Hawaii Pacific University'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 Hawaii Pacific University 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,



Jamienne S. Studley
President

JSS/so

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair
Jennifer Walsh, ALO
Richard Hunter, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Susan Opp, Vice President