

July 11, 2022

Dr. Maenette Benham
Chancellor
University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu
91-1001 Farrington Highway
Kapolei, HI 96707

Dear Chancellor Benham:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu (UHWO) 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 UHWO March 2 – 4, 2022. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by UHWO prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's May 16, 2022 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Jeffrey Moniz, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Jan Javinar, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; and Alan Rosenfeld, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Accreditation Liaison Officer (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 new status with WSCUC.

Actions

1. Receive the Accreditation Visit team report
2. Reaffirm accreditation for a period of eight years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2029 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2030
4. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2025 to address all the requirements in this letter.

The Commission commends UHWO in particular for the following:

1. Demonstrating a deeply held and shared passion for the mission of the university, its students, and the region it serves.
2. Intentionally centering Hawai'i an culture and concepts within the Meaning, Quality, and Integrity of Degrees and the needs of the community served.
3. Developing clear institutional learning outcomes, program learning outcomes, and course learning outcomes.
4. Maintaining an operating surplus in the face of system-wide budget cuts and tuition losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. Creating a university Budget Advisory Council with wide representation.

6. Having a highly developed Institutional Research Office led by staff with notable experience in data collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination.

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

1. Establish and implement assessment structures and processes with leadership at all levels dedicated to the improvement of student learning. Engage faculty and staff to collaboratively examine and interpret evidence, and make recommendations for program improvements (CFR 2.4, 2.7, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.4).
2. Utilize data and analyses generated by Institutional Research to inform decision-making across the university, particularly for recruitment, enrollment, and retention (CFR 4.1, 4.3).
3. Develop an academic plan for current and future majors, concentrations and programs; ensure the plan clarifies the role of distance education (CFR 3.7, 4.6).
4. Develop a strategic enrollment management plan that will grow enrollment by establishing targets informed by historical and predictive data and reflecting the capacity of the university's resources and facilities (CFR 3.5, 3.7, 4.3, 4.6).
5. Engage with the University of Hawai'i System and the Legislature to:
 - a. secure funding in order to avoid a potential operations deficit starting FY 2023 (CFR 3.4);
 - b. advance the planning and development of the University District and student housing as proposed in the UHWO Campus Master Plan (CFR 1.7, 3.4);
 - c. restore the positions taken during the COVID pandemic (CFR 3.1).
6. Develop strategies and capacity to increase fundraising to support the university (CFR 3.4).
7. Coordinate communications with current students to help enhance consistent messaging (CFR 2.12, 2.13, 2.14).
8. Develop and formalize standard operating procedures across all functional areas of the university to enhance internal coordination and effectiveness (CFR 2.4, 2.10, 2.11, 3.7).
9. Increase professional development for new and continuing employees that includes employee input as stakeholders in campus success (CFR 3.3).

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that UHWO 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, UHWO 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 UHWO's governing board. A copy of this letter will also be sent to President Lassner, University of Hawai'i. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the UHWO'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 Hawai'i - West O'ahu 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/mam

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair
Alan Rosenfeld, ALO
Randolph Moore, Board Chair
David Lassner, University of Hawai'i
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Maureen A Maloney, Vice President