

July 22, 2015

Dr. Kim Wilcox
Chancellor
University of California, Riverside
900 University Ave.
Riverside, CA 92521-4009

Dear Chancellor Wilcox:

At its meeting via teleconference on July 16, 2015, a panel of the Interim Report Committee considered the report of University of California, Riverside (UCR) submitted on March 1, 2015, along with the supporting documents which accompanied it. The members appreciated the opportunity to discuss the interim report with your colleagues: Steven Brint, Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education; Christine Victorino, Assistant Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education; Gary Coyne, Interim Director of Evaluation and Assessment; Mariam Lam, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature; Beth Beatty, Analyst-Academic Senate; and Katie DeFea, Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences. The discussion was informative and helped the panelists to understand more clearly UCR's responses to the Commission Action Letter dated March 3, 2010 following the Educational Effectiveness Review visit of October 27-29, 2010 and the Interim Report letter of May 8, 2013.

That Commission letter, and the Interim Report letter that followed, asked the institution to address four issues: (1) assessment in undergraduate education; (2) assessment in general education; (3) assessment in graduate education; and (4) status of strategic planning. The panel commends the institution for making substantial progress in each of the areas, as expressed in a report that was comprehensive, easy to read and navigate, and focused on the issues. In addition, the panel notes the commendable integration of administrative and faculty resources in achieving this progress.

With respect to assessment in general, the panel found that UCR has placed appropriate emphasis on the outcomes of assessment, in contrast with a requirement that assessment be performed as a function of accreditation. The panel understands that UCR stresses the need for understanding the success of its programs as a matter of continuous improvement. During the teleconference, evidence was presented of the close collaboration of the Faculty Senate with the lead administration offices in developing and implementing institution-wide systems. The panel understands that assessment at UCR is at the core of the program review effort, and commends the institution for this integration. The panel understands that the cultural shift required to reach this assessment perspective is difficult to achieve in a complex institution, and encourages UCR to maintain its course. The multiple efforts taken to make assessment activities known across the campus and to the general public via web/internet postings support both greater transparency for and broader involvement with stakeholders. Finally, the panel commends UCR for its move to meta-assessment in undergraduate education.

With respect to assessment of core competencies at the undergraduate level, the panel notes that the institution has a firm schedule for their review. As indicated in the teleconference, an influx

of international students may put greater burdens on this effort, especially in the written and oral communications areas. The assessment of these competencies, through the Writing Across the Curriculum initiative and the offering of new public speaking sections, provides a ready vehicle to monitor the integration of non-native speakers into the UCR curriculum.

With respect to program review, institutional representatives explained the slowdown in conducting them in terms of a lack of staffing. The panel understands that this absence of resources has now been addressed. With the large number of programs at the institution, diligence in adhering to a master schedule of reviews will be necessary to complete the cycle.

Finally, with respect to strategic planning, the panel understands that the approval of the State budget will have a neutral impact on the implementation of the plan. The panel appreciated learning of the multiple initiatives being pursued across the campus, from significant additions to increase the size of the faculty to additional buildings being added according to a campus-wide space plan. The senior administration is carefully monitoring the metrics required for the institution to qualify for AAU membership, and integrating those metrics into the larger strategic vision. It is understood that almost all growth in the student body is expected to come at the graduate level and through the addition of international students.

In conclusion, UCR has achieved considerable progress since the time of its last Interim Report, and there is evidence of a coordinated and collaborative effort to expand the impact of assessment and achieve the goals of the strategic plan. The panel encourages the institution to continue to capture the momentum it has generated and to stay the course it has charted.

After deliberation, the panel acted to:

1. Receive the institution's interim report.
2. Confirm the scheduled reaffirmation reviews, with the Offsite Review set for fall 2017 and the Accreditation Visit set for fall 2018.

With respect to the next WSCUC review, please recall that the Commission acted at its June 19 – 21, 2013 meeting, to approve the final version of the *2013 Handbook of Accreditation* and the new Institutional Review Process as outlined in that *Handbook* and its updates. The updated version of the *Handbook* is available on the WSCUC website (www.wascsenior.org). Proceeding forward, the institution should rely upon the new *Handbook* as the appropriate guide for matters related to Standards and CFRs. Please contact me if you have specific questions about these changes.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues at University of California, Riverside.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C N Oberg". The signature is stylized with a large "C" and "N" followed by "Oberg" in a cursive-like script.

Christopher N. Oberg
Vice President/COO

Cc: Steven Brint, Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education and ALO
Members of the Interim Report Committee