

July 11, 2022

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

Dear Chancellor Wilcox:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning University of California, Riverside (UCR) 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 Special Visit to University of California, Riverside February 9-11, 2022. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by University of California, Riverside prior to the Special Visit. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Elizabeth Watkins, Provost, Ken Baerenklau, Associate Provost and ALO, and Omar Safie, Director of Evaluation and Assessment. Your comments were very helpful in informing the Commission's deliberations. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's status with WSCUC.

Actions

1. Receive the Special Visit team report that focused on: (1) an enhanced and expanded assessment initiative; (2) a stronger campus commitment to accreditation processes; (3) a modified budget model that embraces changes to campus success; and (4) a re-calibrated cash-based Operating Performance Model
2. Continue with the previously scheduled reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2026 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2026

The Commission commends University of California, Riverside in particular for the following:

1. University leadership's acceptance of the last report and their commitment to meaningfully address the issues raised. Response at every level has been thoughtful and engaged.
2. Building a strong infrastructure for and culture of assessment.
3. Broad and deep progress on transparency and collaboration in campus budgeting through the Campus Finance Committee, including a systematic approach to addressing concerns raised regarding the budget model.
4. Adopting a more realistic multi-year financial projection to shape campus expectations and planning.

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

1. UCR needs to ensure continued progress on the advancements in assessment at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including evidence of student mastery of learning outcomes.

2. UCR needs to formalize its list of programs with an established schedule for undergraduate and graduate program review. The campus must ensure that resources continue to be available to support faculty participation.
3. UCR must ensure that the core competencies are fully integrated into campus assessment activities.
4. Noting that the campus is still operating under the 2010 strategic plan (UCR 2020) and considering changes in the campus and the higher education landscape, UCR needs to adopt a strategic pathway for the current decade.
5. UCR needs to continue to improve its budget processes collaboratively and transparently with its continuing commitment to shared governance that was clearly evident.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of University of California, Riverside's governing board. A copy of this letter is also being sent to President Drake, University of California. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the University of California, Riverside 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 California, Riverside 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/cno

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair
Ken Baerenklau, ALO
Richard Leib, Board Chair
Michael Drake, President
Members of the Special Visit team
Christopher Oberg, Executive Vice President