

July 18, 2024

Dr. Paul Alexander
President
Hope International University
2500 E. Nutwood Avenue
Fullerton, CA 92831

Dear President Alexander:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Hope International University (HIU) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 28, 2024. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to Hope International University April 24-26, 2024 using the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Hope International University prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's June 12, 2024 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Steve D. Edgington, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Natalie Ann Hewitt, ALO, Professor of English, Dean of College of Arts & Sciences; Michael Mulryan, Vice President for Institutional Advancement; Teresa Smith, Vice President for Enrollment Management; Rebecca Pacificar, Vice President for Business and Finance; and Joshua Arnold, Vice President for Student Affairs. 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 2029 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2030
4. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2027 to address all requirements listed below
5. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by March 1, 2026 to include the most recent audit with commentary on net revenue

Commendations

The Commission commends the institution for:

1. Demonstrating an enduring commitment to its mission, and for its caring faculty and staff who excel in their endeavors to support students and develop them into servant leaders.
2. Perseverance and resilience through challenging circumstances and adapting to use new approaches to meet the demands of a changing higher education landscape.
3. A comprehensive strategic planning process that meaningfully engaged multiple constituencies and resulted in a plan that articulates ambitious goals that are responsive to the institution's strategic position, define the institution's future direction, and has informed resource allocation.
4. Institutional ability to collect and systematically use academic assessment data as part of program review to ensure continuous improvement of academic programs and inform decisions about new program offerings.

Areas for Development

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following areas for development:

1. Strengthen the long-term financial viability of the institution by:
 - a. Developing strategies, forecasting, and analysis processes that simultaneously address current finances and long-term financial sustainability.
 - b. Expanding advancement strategy beyond what has been done historically and prioritizing building the university endowment.
 - c. Examining and optimizing the program portfolio to remove redundancies and improve curricular efficiencies in class sizes and faculty teaching load.
 - d. Developing proactive plans to address deferred maintenance issues with priority for those that impact the student experience.
 - e. Diversifying income and increasing other funding sources. (CFRs 3.4, 4.7)
2. Improve enrollment management and grow student enrollment by:
 - a. Investing in building internal capacity in the enrollment management operation in order to ensure the institution's strategic goals and enrollment targets are met.
 - b. Strategically focusing on high-yielding admissions outreach and marketing efforts, including building fruitful partnerships and expanding alumni engagement in recruitment efforts. (CFRs 3.4, 4.7)
3. Prioritize student retention and success by improving the analysis and interpretation of existing data to develop high-impact strategies and practices that proactively strengthen student retention for at-risk populations in addition to the individual early alert efforts currently employed. (CFRs 2.10, 2.6, 4.3)
4. Improve the quality of the academic experience by moving from a distributed to a centralized model for quality assurance practices by:

- a. Creating university-wide, industry-established standards for online courses that ensure compliance with WSCUC distance education guidelines.
- b. Establishing, monitoring, and assessing standard response time expectations across all academic programs for questions and concerns raised by students in its programs. (CFRs 4.1, 4.3, 4.4)

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

Cc: Tracy Poon Tambascia, Commission Chair
Natalie Hewitt, ALO
Will Mullins, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit Team
Linda Petersen, Vice President