

July 12, 2019

Dr. Melvin Oliver
President
Pitzer College
1050 N. Mills Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711-6101

Dear President Oliver:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Pitzer College (Pitzer) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 28, 2019. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to Pitzer March 25-28, 2019. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Pitzer prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's June 10, 2019 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you, and your colleagues Nigel Boyle, Chief Academic Officer; Marco Antonio Cruz, Accreditation Liaison Officer; Jamie Jorgensen, Chief of Staff and Chief Legal Counsel; Melinda Herrold-Menzies, Chair, WSCUC Steering Committee; and Laura Troendle, Chief Financial Officer. 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 2026 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2027
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review to begin May 1, 2023
5. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2022 to address all recommendations contained in this letter

The Commission commends Pitzer in particular for the following:

1. Strong commitment to teaching excellence and student learning.
2. Clear educational objectives that embody Pitzer's mission, values and guiding principles.
3. Highly attractive and well-maintained campus, demonstrating the institution's commitment to sustainability.
4. Remarkable rise in national reputation and image.
5. Strategic integration with the Claremont Colleges Consortium.
6. Exemplary retention, persistence and graduation rates.
7. Extensive inclusion of students in shared governance.

8. Recruitment by the President of a highly qualified and experienced Cabinet.
9. Inclusive strategic planning process that was informed by self-study.

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

1. Engage in dialogue to improve shared governance, enhance communication, and build greater trust in decision-making among board, administration, faculty, staff, and students. (CFRs 3.7, 3.10).
2. Create a realistic model for re-allocating funds to the highest academic priorities. (CFRs 3.4, 3.7).
3. Continue timely progress on completion of the institution's strategic plan and implementation of priorities. (CFR 4.6).
4. Re-examine the budget implementation committee structure and role in order to improve the process for developing the annual operating budget. (CFRs 3.4, 3.7).
5. Strengthen experience and sense of belonging throughout the student lifecycle. (CFRs 1.4, 2.2a).
6. Develop a holistic advising system, in particular for students from under-represented groups, which considers equity in workload for faculty. (CFRs 2.12, 2.13).
7. Revise program review process to better align it with the interdisciplinary nature of the field groups and collaborations. (CFRs 1.2, 2.2, 2.7).
8. Build a stronger culture of philanthropy, alumni engagement, and make necessary investments to ensure success of a future comprehensive campaign. (CFR 3.4).
9. Foster a data-informed culture to ensure best practices, including assessment of core competencies, educational objectives, majors, and student outcomes. (CFRs 2.2a, 2.7, 4.5, 4.6).

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that Pitzer has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, Pitzer 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 will be sent to the chair of Pitzer's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Pitzer 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 Pitzer 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/ro

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair
Marco Antonio Cruz, ALO
Harold Brown, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Richard Osborn, Vice President