

December 15, 2023

Dr. David Lopez
Dean & CEO
California College of ASU
1111 S. Broadway
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Dear Dean Lopez:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning California College of ASU (CC-ASU) by the Executive Committee of the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting December 11, 2023. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the post-implementation visit for CC-ASU's Change of Control to Arizona State University (ASU) on October 5, 2023. The Commission also reviewed the information submitted by CC-ASU in response to the Commission's request for information on November 17, 2023 following its initial review of the post-implementation visit report on November 15, 2023.

Actions

1. Receive the post-implementation visit team report of the Change of Control to ASU, and the information subsequently requested by the Commission
2. Remove the Formal Notice of Concern
3. Issue a Warning
4. Continue with the previously scheduled Special Visit in spring 2024 to address the requirements in this letter in addition to the specified requirements retained from the previous Commission Action Letter of July 7, 2021

Warning

A Warning reflects the Commission's finding that an institution fails to meet one or more of the Standards of Accreditation. While on Warning, any new site or degree program initiated by the institution is regarded as a substantive change (see the Substantive Change Manual for details). The accredited status of the institution continues during the Warning period. The Commission action to issue a Warning is subject to Commission Review, described below.

When the Commission finds that an institution fails to meet one or more of the Standards of Accreditation, it is required to notify the institution of the deficiencies and establish a time period within which the deficiencies must be corrected. Under the Commission's policies the timeframe may not exceed two years. If an institution has not remedied the deficiencies at the conclusion of this sanction period, the Commission will withdraw the institution's accreditation or extend the timeframe for

good cause shown. The initial extension may not exceed two years.

An institution under sanction must address the areas cited by the Commission expeditiously, with seriousness and the full attention of the institution's leadership. It is the responsibility of the institution to demonstrate to the Commission that it has understood the issues raised in this letter, responded to them satisfactorily, and has made the necessary changes to come into compliance with Standard 3. It is the responsibility of the Commission to determine whether the institution has made the necessary corrections and has come into compliance with Commission Standards,

Areas of Noncompliance

The Commission determined that CC-ASU was out of compliance with Standard 3, specifically with CFRs 3.4, 3.5, and 3.7.

Financial strength and sustainability. CC-ASU has experienced serious financial problems with total operating expenses exceeding total revenues for the past three years. The institution is currently operating at a deficit of approximately \$2.2 million. The recent sale of the former main campus did not result in any net proceeds. Significant staff reductions of approximately 25% of CC-ASU's employees have occurred in recent months.. The Commission finds that CC-ASU is out of compliance with CFR 3.4.

Enrollment planning and growth. CC-ASU's current enrollment and future projections remain below what was described as necessary for sustainability in the Change of Control proposal. A comprehensive marketing and enrollment plan term has yet to be finalized. The Commission finds that CC-ASU is out of compliance with CFR 3.4.

Shared governance. Communication between the administration and the faculty and staff is inadequate to support shared governance and to provide necessary engagement and input to inform major decisions and support successful implementation. Communication concerns have arisen in, among other areas, instruction planning, student support, staffing, and facilities. Faculty had marginal opportunity for consultation on the matters of the reduction of positions, including staff critical to instruction such as an equipment manager supporting the cinema program, the hiring of the interim CEO and the CFO, and the name change of the institution. The Commission finds that CC-ASU is out of compliance with CFR 3.7 and 3.10.

Facilities: The institution has not demonstrated that CC-ASU's academic programs, faculty, and students are effectively supported in the ASU California Center at the Herald Examiner Building. Restrictions on use of the facility interfere with the faculty's ability to meet with and counsel students, or the flexibility to conduct instruction or complete academic activities in the creative arts. A lack of the institution's identity and belonging within the location contributes to an unwelcoming environment for academic and co-curricular activities. The Commission finds that CC-ASU is out of compliance with CFR 3.5.

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following issues related to non-compliance with Standard 3 along with CFRs associated with these issues:

1. Development and implementation of enrollment management and financial plans to contribute to financial sustainability for which the Change of Control to ASU was proposed. Determination of future programs, including continuation of current offerings, should be part of this process. (CFRs 2.1, 3.4, 4.6, 4.7)
2. Development and implementation of a clear communications plan. All constituencies should be fully informed of changes related to control, governance, financial status, and proposed solutions to challenges the institution encounters. (CFRs 1.6, 1.7)
3. Development and implementation of a governance structure that includes active participation by faculty and staff. This includes improved communications in advance of major decisions to enable leadership to better understand issues which may arise. (CFRs 3.7, 3.10)
4. Continue the search process for a new president, with careful consideration of the necessary qualifications and skills to lead CC-ASU in addressing its current challenges and attaining its long-term strategic goals. (CFR 3.8)
5. The institution should assure that the campus environment is consistent with the institution's educational objectives and supports instruction aligned with student learning outcomes of the institution's academic offerings. (CFR 3.5)

The institution is also required to respond to the following issues previously identified in the Commission Action Letter of July 7, 2021:

1. Increase the emphasis on student success, including the use of more conventional retention and graduation measures and results to allow for benchmarking against peer institutions; deepening understanding of longer-term implications; and aligning policies and practices to support the success of all students. (CFR 1.2, 2.10, 4.1)
2. Formalize and implement the faculty governance structure and ensure it is accurately reflected in the Faculty Handbook. (CFR 3.7, 3.10)
3. Ensure that the CAO has the adequate capacity, support, and resources to carry out ALO duties. (Accreditation Liaison Officer Policy)

Next Steps

The Commission requires a meeting between the WSCUC staff and representatives of California College of ASU, including the Chief Executive Officer, representatives of the governing board, and senior faculty leadership, within 90 days from the date of this letter. The purposes of the meeting are to further clarify the reasons for the Commission's findings and bases for decision, to review the actions taken as of the date of the meeting, and to discuss the institution's plans for responding to this Commission action. WSCUC will contact CC-ASU's ALO to make arrangements for this meeting.

The Commission decision to impose this Warning is subject to Commission review. A request by the institution for Commission review is limited to one or more of the four bases outlined in the *2013 Handbook of Accreditation, Revised*. If CC-ASU intends to seek review, the request, co-signed by the CEO and chair of the governing board, must be submitted to the president of the Commission within 28 days of the

date of this letter together with the required fee.

Commission policy requires that in the case of a sanction, a public statement will be prepared in consultation with the institution acknowledging the institution's status. The Commission reserves the right to make the final determination of the nature and content of the public statement. The institution must post the statement within seven days, along with a copy of the Commission letter, in a readily accessible location on the institution's website and accompanying every reference to WSCUC accreditation.

Enclosed is a copy of a sample public statement, which CC-ASU may use as it stands. If you wish to propose revisions to the sample, your proposed changes must be forwarded by email to Vice President. Maloney within 24 hours of receipt of this letter. In addition, any reference to WSCUC accreditation on the website and in public statements must be accompanied by the words "Currently on Warning."

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of CC-ASU's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the CC-ASU website and within seven days, 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.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Jamiene S. Studley
President

JSS/jkh

Cc: Tracy Tambascia, Commission Chair
David Carter, ALO
James Lyons, Board Chair
Members of the Post-implementation visit team
Maureen Maloney, Vice President

WASC Senior College and University Commission Statement
on the Status of California College of ASU

On December 11, 2023, the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) voted to issue a Warning to California College of ASU (CC-ASU).

A Warning reflects the Commission's finding that an institution fails to meet one or more of the Standards of Accreditation. The Commission has determined that California College of ASU is not in compliance with WSCUC Standard 3. When the Commission finds that an institution fails to meet one or more of the Standards of Accreditation, it is required to notify the institution of these findings and give the institution a period of time to correct the deficiencies. Under the Commission's policies the timeframe may not exceed two years. It is the responsibility of the Commission to determine, at the end of the sanction period, whether the institution has made the necessary corrections and has come into compliance with Commission Standards.

The accredited status of CC-ASU continues during the Warning period and students' status within the college is not affected by this sanction.

The Commission's decision to issue CC-ASU a Warning is subject to the terms and conditions contained in the Commission Action Letter dated December 15, 2023. This document is available on the WSCUC website. Anyone who has questions about CC-ASU's accreditation status should contact David Carter, Accreditation Liaison Officer at CC-ASU.