

March 6, 2024

Dr. Soraya Coley
President
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
3801 West Temple Ave
Pomona, CA 91768

Dear President Coley:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (CalPolyPom) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 16, 2024. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Special Visit to CalPolyPom October 24-27, 2023, using the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by CalPolyPom prior to the Special Visit. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague Keith Forward, Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Programs. 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) diversity and inclusion; (2) key leadership positions; (3) relationships among program, GE, and institutional outcomes; (4) assessment and institutional data evidencing student learning and success; (5) meaningful and manageable program review; (6) graduate program support; and (7) integrated planning.
2. Continue with the previously scheduled reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2029 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2029
3. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by November 1, 2025 to address communication efforts related to the Strategic Plan.

Commendations

The Commission commends the institution for:

1. Committing to diversity, equity, and inclusion as a fundamental value in educational and societal development by focusing on DEI in its mission statement, strategic plans, and established structures, such as the campus-wide Inclusive Excellence Council and Office of Inclusive Excellence.

2. Adopting the eight elements of an inclusive polytechnic education as institutional learning goals for all undergraduate and graduate programs and developing general education student learning outcomes that address civic literacy, intercultural engagement, and the five WSCUC Core Competencies.
3. Aligning institutional, general education, and program learning outcomes in ways that make assessment more meaningful and engaging for faculty.
4. Leveraging the strategic plan to drive key initiatives and budget priorities.
5. Highlighting the importance of including both academic and co-curricular student learning outcomes in the assessment structure, thereby broadening the definition of student success beyond graduation rates to include student sense of belonging, well-being, and mental health.
6. Working diligently to recruit and fill five academic dean appointments and develop a robust onboarding process for the deans and other new administrators.

Areas for Development

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

1. Communicate progress with and accomplishments relating to the Strategic Plan 2017-2025 to foster shared understanding and appreciation (e.g., on the Strategic Plan website to include publicly facing materials). (CFR 4.6, 4.7)
2. Examine the effectiveness of multiple DEI committees, which could lead to consolidation and enhance shared funding and collaborative actions to achieve the university's DEI priorities. (CFR 1.4, 4.1, 4.3)
3. Develop robust assessment of DEI initiatives and use the results to advance the institution's goals to close academic equity gaps, improve climate, and promote greater equity in the recruitment of faculty, staff, and graduate students. (CFR 1.4, 4.1, 4.3)
4. Complete proposed program reviews of student co-curricular learning and use the assessment results to inform programming including planning, program design and resource allocation. (CFR 2.7)
5. Examine the policies and processes for recruiting and hiring senior leaders to identify opportunities for more expeditious hiring. (CFR 3.1, 3.2, 3.6)
6. Develop and implement more effective communications to inform the campus about leadership changes and vacancies. (CFR 3.6, 3.7)

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of CalPolyPom's governing board. A copy of this letter is also being sent to Chancellor Garcia, California State University. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on CalPolyPom's 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 California State Polytechnic University, Pomona 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

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Cc: Tracy Poon Tambascia, Commission Chair
Keith Forward, ALO
Wenda Fong, Board Chair
Mildred Garcia, CSU Chancellor
Members of the Accreditation Visit Team
Maureen A Maloney, Vice President