

July 12, 2019

Dr. David Fike
President
Golden Gate University
536 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear President Fike:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Golden Gate University (GGU) 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 GGU March 11-14, 2019. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by GGU prior to the Offsite Review (OSR) and the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Barbara Karlin, Vice President for Academic Affairs and ALO; Anthony Niedwiecki, Dean of the Law School; Sathyapal Menon, CFO; and Frank Felicelli, member of the Board of Trustees. 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 2024 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2025
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review to begin May 1, 2022
5. Schedule a Special Visit in spring 2021 to address
 - a. Finances. Please provide:
 - i. Audited financial statements for FY19, FY20, and preliminary for FY21
 - ii. Budget projections for 2022, 2023, 2024
 - iii. Revenue by source for FY19, FY20, and preliminary FY21
 - iv. Fundraising detail for FY19, FY20, and preliminary FY21
 - v. An assessment of the financial status of the institution
 - b. Enrollment. Please provide:
 - i. Five year trend analysis for GGU overall 2015-16, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-2020, fall 2020
 - ii. Discussion of discrepancies, if any, between enrollment goals and actual enrollments
 - c. Retention and Completion. Please provide:
 - i. Institutional Research reports related to retention and completion by degree program

The Commission commends GGU in particular for the following:

1. A strong commitment to its mission on the part of students, faculty, staff, administration, alumni, and the board who are all dedicated to diversity and student success.
2. A new leadership team that has focused on strategic thinking and building capacity.
3. Degree programs that are aligned with the institutional mission, and instruction that is appropriately grounded in the business and legal communities.
4. Strengthened student support programs and units through greater centralization and inclusion in the annual quality assurance process.
5. Enhanced collaborations across faculty, disciplines, and schools that have resulted in greater academic synergy.

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

1. Ensure long-term viability through realistic budgeting, strategic enrollment management (including recruitment and retention), diversification of revenue sources, and active fundraising. (CFR 3.4)
2. Demonstrate gains in retention and completion using newly implemented methods of collecting and reporting data. (CFR 2.10)
3. Enhance human resource functions and services, including regular and routine evaluations of staff and onboarding of new staff, full-time and adjunct faculty. (CFR 3.2)
4. Improve two-way communication between faculty and administration in areas such as future faculty compensation policies and processes, strategic planning, and creation of new academic programs. (CFRs 3.6, 3.7)
5. Develop a consensus definition and understanding of shared governance and the respective roles and responsibilities of faculty and administration. (CFRs 3.7, 3.10)
6. Strengthen support for faculty professional development and scholarly activities. (CFR 3.3)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that Golden Gate University 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, GGU 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 Golden Gate University's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on GGU'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 Golden Gate 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/ bgd

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair
Barbara Karlin, ALO
Randy Merck, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Barbara Gross Davis, Vice President