

July 14, 2023

Dr. Daniele Struppa
President
Chapman University
One University Drive
Orange, CA 92866

Dear President Struppa:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Chapman University (Chapman) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 30, 2023. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation (TPR) Accreditation Visit to Chapman University March 15-17, 2023. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Chapman University prior to the Accreditation Visit, and the institution's May 12, 2023 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague Joseph Slowensky, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Faculty 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 ten years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2032 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2033
4. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by November 1, 2026 to address all requirements of this Commission Action Letter.

The Commission commends Chapman University in particular for the following:

1. Articulating a clear vision for the future with near- and long-term goals for elevating its recognition as a prestigious research institution focused on student and faculty outcomes, and for making clear choices in aligning resources—including financial and fundraising—to realize this objective over a clearly defined time period.
2. Allocating funding to STEM education and initiating investments in the facilities required to deliver these programs.

3. Cultivating and sustaining broad campus support for the strategic diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.
4. Fostering a familiar culture of collaboration and collegiality.
5. Creating and maintaining an atmosphere that intentionally cultivates a supportive and nurturing relationship between faculty and students through small classes and abundant opportunities for both relationship building and student learning accomplished through collaborative research and creative projects.
6. Ensuring educational effectiveness through faculty commitment to an authentically strong assessment and program review process.

The Commission requires Chapman University to respond to the following issues:

1. Consider the provost's scope of authority and the effectiveness of reporting and oversight arrangements. (CFR 3.7)
2. Provide timely and responsive student mental health counseling services at both the Rinker Health Science campus and the main campus. (CFR 2.13)
3. Improve undergraduate academic advising services, ensuring students receive timely, useful, and complete information about relevant academic requirements. (CFRs 2.12 & 2.13)
4. Fortify undergraduate research and creative activity opportunities across all disciplines via systematic space utilization review, redesign, and facilities maintenance, as well as faculty incentives and appropriate infrastructure. (CFR 2.5)
5. Facilitate greater engagement, shared governance, and transparency with faculty and staff to identify opportunities to better align institutional capacity and resources—including personnel—with enrollment growth and strategic priorities. (CFRs 3.10 & 4.6)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that Chapman University addressed the three Core Commitments and successfully completed the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, Chapman 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 Chapman 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 Chapman University'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 Chapman University undertook in preparing for the 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

JSS/mbg

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Immediate Past Chair
Tracy Poon Tambascia, Chair
Joseph Slowensky, ALO
Parker Kennedy, Board Chair
Members of the TPR Accreditation Visit team
Mark B. Goor, Vice President