

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES
ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SENIOR COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES



April 12, 2007

Stephen Sylvester
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai'i, West Oahu
96-129 Ala Ika
Pearl City, HI 96782

Dear Dr. Sylvester:

On February 23, 2007, a Panel of the Substantive Change Committee met via conference call to consider the request from University of Hawai'i, West Oahu, for approval to expand its programs to include lower division courses under the WASC category of Change of Mission. The Panel had access to the institution's proposal and a summary of the University's Accreditation History. The Panel appreciated the opportunity to discuss the materials with you and with your colleagues: Gene Awakuni, Chancellor; Melinda Wood, Academic Planning Specialist; Jean Osumi, Dean of Student Affairs; Mark Hanson, President, Faculty Senate; and Clifford Togo, Chief Financial Officer.

This letter is to confirm that the Panel, on behalf of the Substantive Change Committee, acted to forward the proposal to the Structural Change Panel of the Commission for approval at its June 22, 2007 meeting. Decisions regarding changes in mission rest with the Commission. The Panel also concluded that a site visit prior to Commission approval was not warranted given the comprehensive nature of the information submitted for review.

In taking this action, the Panel notes that the proposal was well prepared and that it anticipated the key planning steps necessary for moving the institution in this long-anticipated direction. The Panel urges the institution not to underestimate the importance of clearly defining and planning to assess the student learning outcomes particular to the new courses being designed and implemented. Integrating these outcomes at the course level and aligning them with the System's Hallmarks will be critical to success in the coming months.

This letter represents the findings of the Substantive Change Committee, which are being forwarded with its endorsement for approval, to the Structural Change Panel of the Commission at its June 2007 meeting. A letter representing the

985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100
Alameda, CA 94501
PHONE: 510.748.9001
FAX: 510.748.9797
E-MAIL: wascsr@wasc-senior.org
INTERNET: www.wascweb.org

Chair
John D. Welty
California State University, Fresno

Vice Chair
Laura Trimbley
Pitzer College

Dede Alpert
Public Member

Mark Bookman
University of Judaism

W. Bernard Bowler
Public Member

Barbara Cambridge
Cambridge Academy and N.C.T.E.

Jerry Dean Campbell
Claremont School of Theology

Anna DiStefano
Fulling Graduate University

James Donshue
Graduate Theological Union

Aimée Dore
University of California, Los Angeles

John Eshelman
Seattle University

John Fitzpatrick
Schools Commission Representative

Laurence Gould
Public Member

James P. Lyons, Sr.
*California State University,
Dominique Hill*

Christina Maslach
University of California, Berkeley

Wesley Mitchell
*California State University,
Bakersfield*

Tamás Morala
*California State Polytechnic
University, Pomona*

Martha G. Romero
*Community and Junior Colleges
Commission Representative*

Eleanor Dantzer Siebert
Mount St. Mary's College

Sue Wesselkamper
Chaminade University of Honolulu

Michael Whyte
Arizona Pacific University

Staff
Ralph A. Wolf
President and Executive Director

Therese A. Cannon
Associate Director

Neil Hoffman
Associate Director

Richard A. Winn
Associate Director

Barbara Wright
Associate Director

Christie Jones
*Assistant Director for Research
and Substantive Change*

Lee Wea
*Assistant Director for
Commission Support*

Robert H. Benedetti
Adjunct Assurance Director

Richard C. Giardina
Adjunct Assurance Director

Bill Gong
Finance & Operations Manager

Letter to Stephen Sylvester
April 12, 2007
Page 2

Commission's action will be sent to your attention following its meeting. As part of the Special Visit scheduled for October 2008, WASC will expect the university to include an update on the status of the change in mission.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments about this letter or the Panel's action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Winn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Winn
Associate Director

Cc: Gene I. Awakuni, Chancellor
Anna DiStefano, Member of the Substantive Change Panel
Charles Upshaw, Member of the Substantive Change Panel