

June 30, 2017

Dr. Alvin H. Cheung
President
California Northstate University
9700 West Taron Drive
Elk Grove, CA 95757

Dear President Cheung:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning California Northstate University (CNU) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 21-23, 2017. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to California Northstate University on March 7-9, 2017. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by California Northstate University prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR and the institution's April 6, 2017 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues: Dr. Karen McClendon, Vice President for Institutional Research and ALO, and Dr. Joseph Silva, Dean and Chief Academic Officer. 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 eight 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 in spring 2021
5. Request an Interim Report to be submitted by November 21, 2021 to address
 - a. Program Reviews: provide evidence of completed program reviews, including retention and graduation data, for the newly implemented programs in the College of Medicine and the College of Health Science. These programs include the four-year BS, the non-degree 30-unit post-baccalaureate program, and the accelerated professional tracks leading to the MD and Pharm D;
 - b. An updated review of the recently created senior administrative positions and how each functions effectively in relation to the overall mission of the university;
 - c. An update on steps taken by CNU to ensure long-term stability through the retention of administrators, faculty, and staff.

Commendations

The Commission commends California Northstate University in particular for the following:

1. A strong sense of institutional identity and a clearly articulated mission shared by faculty, staff, and students;
2. Dedication to and engagement with the community outside of the university;
3. A student-centered approach to learning and a commitment to the implementation of innovative educational practices;
4. A thoughtful and realistic approach to expanding the current infrastructure to provide increased support for students;
5. The positive engagement of the Board of Trustees with evidence-based decision-making and accreditation processes.

Recommendations

The Commission identifies the following issues for further development:

1. CNU graduate culture, with special attention and focus on supporting faculty as they conduct research, publish in peer reviewed journals, present at national and regional conferences, and seek grant funding (CFR 2.8, 2.9, 3.4, 3.5);
2. Recruitment and retention of faculty, staff, and administrators (CFR 3.1, 3.3, 4.6);
3. Critically examine organizational structures including roles, responsibilities, reporting structures, and communication expectations, to ensure that CNU continues to achieve its mission. (CFR 3.7);
4. Efforts to provide evidence of student learning, the effective use of program reviews as a basis for decisions regarding increasing educational effectiveness, and clear strategies for communicating student achievement in terms of both graduation rates and levels of student learning (CFR 2.7).

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that CNU has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. Between this action and the time of the next review for reaffirmation, the institution is encouraged to continue its progress, particularly with respect to student learning and success.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of California Northstate University's governing board in one week. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the CNU'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 Northstate 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Ellen Petrisko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Mary Ellen Petrisko
President

MEP/ gc

Cc: Bill Ladusaw, Commission Chair
Karen McClendon, ALO
Candace Fong, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Geoff Chase, Vice President