

March 17, 2023

Dr. Suzanne Keen
President
Scripps College
1030 Columbia Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711-3905

Dear President Keen:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Scripps College by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 24, 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 Scripps November 16-18, 2022. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Scripps prior to the Accreditation Visit, and the institution's January 19, 2023 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Amy Marcus-Newhall, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, Eulena Jonsson, Director of Assessment and Institutional Research, Victoria Romero, Vice President for Enrollment, and Denise Nelson Nash, Vice President and Secretary 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.

The Commission found that Scripps has satisfactorily addressed its theme of the Innovative Learning Organization. However, further efforts are needed to enhance its performance in the area of Inclusive Student Success.

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 spring 2030 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2030
4. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2025, to address progress in:
 - a. Investing in and communicating about efforts to improve diversity, equity and inclusion, including clarifying roles and responsibilities, increasing the accessibility and visibility of key personnel, establishing mechanisms for accountability, monitoring outcomes, and proactively implementing improvements when necessary

- b. Reviewing how financial aid practices and policies align with the institution's goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion, including enrollment and student success
- c. Redesigning and implementing the Core Curriculum scheduled for launch in 2025-26
- d. Creating and operationalizing a shared definition of student success between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs

The Commission commends Scripps in particular for the following:

1. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic from March 2020 to the start of the fall 2021 semester through innovative on-line teaching and delivery of student services, and especially careful financial management.
2. Community-wide attention to both curricular and co-curricular assessment efforts, the results of which are being used to inform budgetary decisions that will positively impact student learning and development.
3. A variety of initiatives and programs reflecting a deep commitment and distributed approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion across the campus, and the recent establishment of the Equity and Justice Leadership Team.
4. Receipt of a Schuler Education Foundation Access Initiative matching grant of \$15 million to support student financial aid that helps the college reach its goal of increased access.
5. A broad commitment by faculty, staff, administrators, and the board to advance Scripps' liberal arts mission, to be responsive to the needs of students, and to ensure relevance of the liberal arts to the evolving societal context.

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

1. Continue to intentionally develop and implement a reimagined Core Curriculum sequence based on data, faculty expertise, and institutional student learning outcomes, planned to launch in academic year 2025-2026. (CFRs 2.1, 2.2, 2.2a, 4.6)
2. Continue to explore and implement discipline-appropriate approaches to assessment across the college that celebrate student achievement, identify curricular and pedagogical opportunities to enhance student learning and success, and actively track and analyze the impact of these changes to continually learn and improve. (CFRs 2.4, 2.6, 2.9, 4.4)
3. Review financial aid policies and practices to ensure alignment with the institution's goals for promoting economic, racial and ethnic diversity in enrollment and fostering inclusive student success. Make evidence-based improvements to policies and practices as needed, while actively tracking the impact of any significant changes. (CFRs 1.4, 2.10)
4. Intensify intentional efforts to promote learning, investment, and communication around diversity, equity and inclusion activities across all campus functions and communities. Closely monitor outcomes and leverage progress to build upon

current initiatives. (CFR 1.4, Policy on Equity and Inclusion, Equity and Inclusion Guide)

5. Create and operationalize a shared definition of student success between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. (CFRs 2.10, 2.11, 2.13, 4.1)
6. Improve communication between senior leadership and the faculty in order to strengthen shared governance. (CFRs 3.6, 3.10)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that Scripps College addressed the three Core Commitments and completed the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, Scripps 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 Scripps's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Scripps College 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 Scripps 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/bgd

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair
Eulena Jonsson, ALO
Laura Hockett, Board Chair
Members of the TPR Accreditation Visit team
Barbara Gross Davis, Vice President