

July 18, 2024

Dr. Mallory Dwinal-Palisch
Chancellor
Reach University
1221 Preservation Park Way, Suite 100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chancellor Dwinal-Palisch:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Reach University (Reach) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 28, 2024. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to Reach University April 24-26, 2024 using the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Reach University prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's June 12, 2024 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Joe Edelheit Ross, President and ALO, and Anastasia Wickham, Provost. 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.

Procedural History

Reach University received Initial Accreditation in June 2017. In February 2020, Reach received approval to incubate the Oxford Teachers College (OTC). In June 2020, OTC and Reach merged. A Special Visit followed in September 2021.

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 2029 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2030
4. Schedule a Special Visit in spring 2027 to address all requirements of this letter
5. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by May 1, 2025 to address the new Strategic Plan

Commendations

The Commission commends the institution for:

1. A cohesive and collaborative team that is passionate about education, working to move the mission forward.
2. The internship job-embedded model that provides opportunities for education and trains teachers who are committed to their communities in underserved areas.
3. Identifying the potential of apprenticeship-based degrees and leveraging the National Center for the Apprenticeship Degree (NCAD) to scale the Reach model, access federal funding, and establish Reach as a thought leader.
4. A group of curriculum developers who continuously work to update curriculum, ensure rigor, and academic engagement.
5. A Candidate Services team that provides tireless support for ensuring candidate success.

Areas for Development

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following areas for development:

1. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategic plan spanning three to five years to serve as a roadmap for the institution, ensuring adherence to timelines and goals, allocation of adequate resources linking to both a strategic enrollment management and a strategic hiring/staffing plan, and includes monitoring and evaluation. (CFR 3.7, 4.6)
2. Develop and implement a detailed, realistic, and transparent budget that supports anticipated growth and long-term sustainability. Regularly and systematically analyze and disseminate financials for use in budget tracking and institutional decision-making. (CFR 3.1, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.10)
3. Enhance Board functions by updating by-laws to include annual evaluations of the President and Chancellor, implementing formal self-assessment of board effectiveness, and participating in board development. (CFR 3.7, 3.8)
4. Reconceptualize faculty governance to ensure there is meaningful representation and voice to inform university operations, academic policies, academic programs, faculty development, and academic procedures. (CFR 3.2)
5. Strengthen the existing assessment and program review processes to ensure the use and analysis of data to effectively close the loop. Develop and adhere to a regular assessment and program review cycle for academic, non-academic, and co-curricular programs. (CFR 2.7)
6. Analyze retention and attrition data to inform decisions and create strategies to enhance retention and success. (CFR 2.10, 4.1)
7. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategic enrollment management plan that is directly aligned with the initiatives identified in the institution's strategic plan. (CFR 3.4, 4.6)
8. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategic hiring/staffing plan to include faculty capacity and expertise to ensure effective oversight of programs and appropriate higher education administrative support aligned with institutional growth. (CFR 3.1, 3.2)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that Reach University successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, Reach 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 Reach 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 Reach University 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 Reach 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,



Jamiene S. Studley
President

JSS/mbg

Cc: Tracy Poon Tambascia, Commission Chair
Joe Ross, ALO
Darin Yankowitz, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit Team
Mark B. Goor, Vice President