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PRESIDENT
Mary Ellen Petrisko

March 9, 2017

Dr. Michael J. Higgins
President
Franciscan School of Theology
4050 Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92057

Dear President Higgins:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Franciscan School of Theology (FST) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 15-17, 2017. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to FST October 11-13, 2016. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by FST prior to the Offsite Review (OSR) and the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit by conference call with you, and your colleagues: Dennis Galligani, Board Chair; and Garrett Galvin, Vice President for Academic 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 six years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2022 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2022
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review in spring 2020
5. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by November 1, 2018 to include: 1) a financial update; 2) Strategic Plan with enrollment and financial targets with updates of the implementation; 3) the Marketing and Enrollment Plan with updates of the implementation; and 4) update on faculty engagement with current student demographics in terms of learning, student recruitment, and retention.
6. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by November 1, 2020 to include 1) a financial update; 2) Strategic Plan with enrollment and financial targets with updates on implementation; 3) the Marketing and Enrollment Plan with updates of the implementation; and 4) update on faculty engagement with current student demographics in terms of learning, student recruitment, and retention.

Commendations

The Commission commends FST in particular for the following:

1. FST for successfully moving and integrating the Franciscan culture and mission into the community on the new campus of the Old Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside, California.
2. The Board, Regents, Faculty, and Administration of FST for the smooth presidential and vice presidential succession and support for the new administrative leadership team.
3. FST for the appointment of a new CFO and the progress being made in solidifying sound financial management.
4. FST on their preparedness and transparency for the WSCUC Accreditation Visit.
5. FST & the University of San Diego for their commitment to the institutional partnership between the two entities.
6. FST for fostering an environment that is welcoming to women, where lay men, women, and Friars study side by side and learn from one another.

Recommendations

The Commission identifies the following issues for further development:

1. Complete the Strategic Plan clarifying what student populations FST intends to serve and set metrics for sustainable enrollment levels and financial targets [CFRs 4.5, 4.6, 4.7].
2. Identify and implement steps to ensure financial sustainability with specific attention to enrollment management, development, and contributions from the Province and the Board of Regents [CFR 3.4].
3. Develop a detailed Marketing and Enrollment plan and structurally ensure adequate capacity and coordination in Marketing, Recruiting and Admission for effective implementation of the enrollment plan [CFR 3.1, 3.7].
4. Encourage faculty to identify new ways of engaging current students in learning, student recruitment, and retention, taking into consideration that student characteristics and educational needs have changed with FST's move to Oceanside. [CFR 2.10, 2.13, 4.3, 4.4].
5. Further explore alternative forms of delivery of the degree programs to serve the current student needs and extend to potential global markets [CFRs 2.10, 4.6, 4.7].
6. Continue to develop areas of collaboration with the University of San Diego [CFRs 3.5, 4.4, 4.7].

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that FST 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 FST'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 FST'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 Franciscan School of Theology 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,



Mary Ellen Petrisko
President

MEP/ro

Cc: William Ladusaw, Commission Chair
Dennis Galligani, Board or Regents Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Richard Osborn, Vice President