

July 18, 2024

Dr. Anita Enriquez
President
University of Guam
303 University Drive
UOG Station
Mangilao, Guam 96923

Dear President Enriquez:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the University of Guam (UOG) 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 UOG February 28 – March 1, 2024, using the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by UOG prior to the Accreditation Visit, and the institution’s May 7, 2024, response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Abigail Martin, Comptroller; Sharleen Santos-Bamba, Senior Vice President and Provost; Randall Wiegand, Vice President of Administration and Finance; Marlena O.F. Pangelinan, Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness; Pamela Peralta Taitano, Interim Vice Provost, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs; Vince Dela Cruz, Chief Information Officer; Gene A Rojas, Associate Professor of Public Administration; Roseann Jones, Dean SBPA; Rachel Cubacub, Associate Budget/Process Officer; Andrea Sant, Interim Associate Director, Center for Online Learning; and Monique Storie, Dean, University Libraries and Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Studies. 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 2031 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2032
4. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by January 3, 2025, containing the Student Handbook, Code of Conduct, and Title IX policies ensuring compliance with relevant federal regulations
5. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by November 1, 2028, to address:
 - a. the impact of co-curricular programs on improving student experiences and contributing to student success and completion.

- b. confirmation that the course schedule details class listings, modality, location, name of faculty for the course, dates, times, and unit values, and that students receive accurate, essential, and timely information for academic advising and planning.
- c. evidence of an updated program review timeline and two examples of completed program reviews not covered by any professional or programmatic accreditation.

Commendations

The Commission commends the institution for the following:

1. Persevering through a series of challenges such as the pandemic, typhoon, and leadership changes, ensuring support for faculty, staff, and students throughout.
2. Participating in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' (AASCU) student success equity intensive, identifying barriers to student success, closing equity gaps, and supporting student success outcomes.
3. Designing and integrating island wisdom throughout the curriculum and co-curriculum to showcase Guam's unique culture and identity, creating a distinctive higher education experience that positions the university as a mission-driven institution and a hub for partnerships with the local and regional communities.
4. Proposing and implementing a budget strategy that aligns the institution's financial allocations with its highest priorities.
5. Garnering strong support from the Board of Regents who demonstrate a deep understanding of the University of Guam's challenges and opportunities, coupled with strategic planning for its future.
6. Embodying its mission with a strong sense of collegiality, deeply rooted in the local culture, place, and community.
7. Deliberately expanding its research portfolio to benefit the community and region.

Areas for Development

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

1. Update the Student Handbook, Code of Conduct, and Title IX policies to align with best practices in higher education and comply

with applicable federal regulations. (CFRs 1.6, 2.13)

2. Develop a strategic enrollment management plan to be more responsive to market trends, retention priorities, and resource availability. (CFRs 3.4, 4.7)
3. Implement transparent, user-friendly practices, developed collaboratively by academic and student affairs, that provide definitive and complete course scheduling information, minimize bureaucratic hurdles, and ensure students receive accurate, essential, and timely academic planning information. (CFRs 2.12, 2.13)
4. Enhance inclusion by actively involving adjunct faculty, staff, and students in shared governance to ensure diverse perspectives are considered when developing the institution's priorities and policies. (CFR 3.7)
5. Create and implement an advancement plan to strengthen alumni engagement and philanthropic efforts with the goal of broadening the institution's revenue streams. (CFR 3.4)
6. Refine co-curricular strategies within the Triton Ecosystem of Support to enhance student retention and graduation, ensuring ineffective strategies are phased out and promising practices are adopted or expanded in a single, cohesive approach. (CFR 2.11)
7. Improve the program review process by clarifying the relationship between institutional reviews and those conducted by professional associations, establishing practical timelines for reviews, and incorporating structured feedback mechanisms to ensure continuous improvement of academic program quality. (CFRs 2.7, 4.4)
8. Implement the recommendations from the Distance Education review in the team report, integrating distance education students into the larger UOG culture, strengthening interaction between students and faculty in distance education courses, collecting retention, graduation, and disaggregated student learning data by modality, and aligning online/hybrid programs with strategic planning and demand. (CFRs 2.5, 2.10, 4.4, 4.7)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that the University of Guam completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, UOG 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 UOG's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the UOG'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 the University of Guam 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: Tracy Poon Tambascia, Commission Chair
Sharleen Santos-Bamba, ALO
Sandra McKeever, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit Team
Barbara Gross Davis, Vice President