

July 12, 2019

Mr. Thomas A. Cropper
President
California State University Maritime Academy
200 Maritime Academy Drive
Vallejo, CA 94590-8181

Dear President Cropper:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning California State University Maritime Academy (CSUMA) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 28, 2019. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to California State University Maritime Academy March 20 - 22, 2019. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by California State University Maritime Academy prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's May 28, 2019 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague Dr. Graham Benton, Associate Provost and ALO. 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 2026 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2027
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review to begin May 1, 2023
5. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by March 1, 2021 to address
 - a. Building a culture of trust in the administration, including reviewing and revising communication strategies to:
 - i. Improve internal communication horizontally and vertically,
 - ii. Strengthen shared governance, and
 - iii. Ensure faculty and student inclusion in decision making
 - b. Working to identify principles of leadership that are instantiated in curricular and co-curricular offerings aligned with the institution's mission and culture.
 - c. Continuing to build on the progress that has been made in assessment and program review by focusing on faculty development and deliberate planning of assessment methods.
 - d. Assessing the current status of unity and diversity on campus using an objective method, for example, a confidential campus climate survey, as the basis for creating a clear set of goals and measures of achievement for the programs and services provided.
6. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2023 to address

- a. Building a culture of trust in the administration, review and revise communication strategies to:
 - i. Improve internal communication horizontally and vertically,
 - ii. Strengthen shared governance, and
 - iii. Ensure faculty and student inclusion in decision making
- b. Working to identify principles of leadership that are instantiated in curricular and co-curricular offerings aligned with the institution's mission and culture.
- c. Continuing to build on the progress that has been made in assessment and program review by focusing on faculty development and deliberate planning of assessment methods.
- d. Assessing the current status of unity and diversity on campus using an objective method, for example, a confidential campus climate survey, as the basis for creating a clear set of goals and measures of achievement for the programs and services provided.

The Commission commends California State University Maritime Academy in particular for the following:

1. the quality of its self-study and the openness with which the institution shared information that recognizes its strengths and identifies its challenges
2. its strong mission, vision, and strategic plans that align with WSCUC standards
3. the work done to evolve the program review procedure and the institution-wide learning outcomes assessment process
4. the steps CSUMA has taken to insure financial viability
5. the external accolades and awards, completion rates, internship opportunities, industry grants, and career attainments of graduates that Cal Maritime has achieved.

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following in the next institutional report for reaffirmation, in a progress report as specified in this letter, and in an interim report as also specified in this letter:

1. In order to build a culture of trust in the administration, review and revise communication strategies to:
 - a. Improve internal communication horizontally and vertically,
 - b. Strengthen shared governance, and
 - c. Ensure faculty and student inclusion in decision making (CFRs 3.7 and 4.5)
2. Work to achieve a campus-wide consensus on a definition of leadership that integrates academic, licensure, commandant, student and student affairs perspectives. (CFR 4.5)
3. Continue to build on the progress that has been made in assessment and program review by focusing on faculty development and deliberate planning of assessment methods. (CFRs 2.6, 2.7, and 3.3)
4. Assess the current status of unity and diversity on campus using an objective method, for example, a confidential campus climate survey, as the basis for creating a clear set of goals and measures of achievement for the programs and services provided. (CFRs 1.4, 2.2a, and 4.6)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that California State University Maritime Academy has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, California State University Maritime Academy 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 will be sent to the chair of California State University Maritime Academy's governing board. A copy of this letter will also be sent to Timothy P. White, CSU Chancellor. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the California State University Maritime Academy'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 State University Maritime Academy 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/lw

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair
Graham Benton, ALO
Adam Day, Board Chair
Timothy P. White, CSU Chancellor
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Lori Williams, Vice President