

March 9, 2018

Dr. John Reynolds  
Chancellor  
Los Angeles Pacific University  
300 N. Lone Hill #20  
San Dimas, CA 91773

Dear Chancellor Reynolds:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Los Angeles Pacific University (LAPU), known prior to this action as Azusa Pacific University – University College, by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 14-16, 2018. WSCUC granted Candidacy in February 2013 to Azusa Pacific Online University but Azusa Pacific University (APU) a few months later withdrew its request for separate accreditation, creating University College as a school within APU. Following major enrollment growth by University College, the APU Board decided once again to seek separate accreditation for a new institution called LAPU.

This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 to LAPU November 14-16, 2017. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by LAPU prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues: Wayne Herman, Chief of Staff/ALO; Craig Brewer, Vice President of Academic Administration; and Hilda Hovsepian, Director of Finance. 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 Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 team report
2. Grant Initial Accreditation for a period of six years
3. Schedule the reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2023 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2023
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review for May 1, 2021
5. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by November 1, 2021 to respond to the recommendations in this letter

### **Commendations**

The Commission commends LAPU in particular for the following:

1. A clear statement of purpose that reflects the institution's values in every aspect of the institution. LAPU demonstrates a culture of collaboration and mutual learning throughout the community, drawing and learning from each other's expertise.

2. Daily practices that evidence shared commitment to providing an education designed to meet the needs of adult students, the majority of whom are either seeking to advance in their chosen field or preparing to switch fields.
3. Significant progress in developing ways to measure both persistence and retention and also progress toward a degree.
4. Providing a rich faith-based experience.
5. Attaining financial equilibrium and the promise of sustainability.

## **Recommendations**

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

1. Provide adequate faculty and staff capacity as enrollments grow. Programs offered by LAPU are largely delivered by adjunct faculty. It will be important that adjunct faculty have a meaningful role in developing and evaluating new programs, that they have a seat on curricular committees, and that development opportunities are provided for both adjunct and full-time faculty. It will also be important to add additional full-time faculty and support staff as enrollment and the number of academic programs continue to grow. (CFRs 2.1 and 3.10)
2. Create a meaningful data infrastructure and reporting capabilities to support the implementation of the strategic plan. LAPU is encouraged to expand use of the Early Alert system as well as to further harness the knowledge of the student success coaches to identify early trends enabling institutional or programmatic solutions to issues. The institution should continue to refine, expand, and develop the metrics by which progress of students, programs, and the institution are measured. Specifically, data and institutional research should seek to address the challenges of persistence, retention, and graduation in an online environment. (CFR 4.2)
3. Develop a shared understanding of the role of faith as the institution continues to grow. A shared understanding of the role of faith in the culture of LAPU and in the design and delivery of educational programs will be essential as the institution continues to grow, adds additional degree programs and other educational options, and serves a broader range of students, many of whom will embrace other faith traditions or have no faith tradition of their own. (CFRs 2.2, 2.2a, and 2.2b)
4. Develop clear marketing and recruitment to portray the LAPU experience, as LAPU continues to develop programs to serve different student populations. The task of explaining this growing differentiation between APU and LAPU and their shared philosophy and purpose will place significant demands on the approach to marketing and recruitment. (CFR 2.2)
5. Define more explicitly the APU and LAPU relationship, particularly with respect to program offerings and financial arrangements. (CFR 3.4)
6. Integrate program review findings into strategic planning and budgeting and create a financial budgeting system per program that is informed by the program review process. As a component of enhancing this approach to the budget, consideration should be given to moving forward with a full-time CFO position as part of the leadership team. (CFRs 3.4 and 3.8)

7. Assure the appropriate steps in creating the LAPU Board of Trustees. Review the newly revised WSCUC Governing Board Policy so that the formation of the LAPU Board of Trustees is in compliance with the requirements of that policy. (CFR 3.9)

In taking this action to grant Initial Accreditation, the Commission confirms that LAPU has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the institutional review process for Initial Accreditation 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.

Accreditation status is not granted retroactively. LAPU must use the following statement if it wishes to describe its accreditation status publicly:

*Los Angeles Pacific University is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001.*

The accredited status of a program should not be misrepresented. The accreditation granted by WSCUC refers to the quality of the institution as a whole. Because institutional accreditation does not imply specific accreditation of any particular program at the institution, statements such as “this program is accredited” or “this degree is accredited” are incorrect and misleading. The phrase “fully accredited” is also to be avoided, since no partial accreditation is possible.

The Commission stipulates that this action encompasses the degrees offered by Los Angeles Pacific University at the time of this action, as listed in the attachment to this letter titled the Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees. Any proposed new degree programs, off-campus sites, online offerings, and/or changes in governance or ownership require review and approval through the Substantive Change process. Degree programs that have been reviewed and included under this action may be extended to other currently approved campuses of the institution without prior Substantive Change action. Offerings at new locations may need to go through Substantive Change approval, in accordance with the requirements stated in the Substantive Change manual.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of Los Angeles Pacific University’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 the Los Angeles Pacific 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 Los Angeles Pacific 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,



Jamienne S. Studley  
President

JSS/do

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair  
Wayne Herman, ALO  
Nick Vande Steeg, Board Chair  
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 team  
Richard Osborn, Vice President

Attachment: Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees

Los Angeles Pacific University

**Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees**

Associate of Arts  
Associate of Science in Health Sciences  
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Psychology  
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Studies  
Bachelor of Arts in Leadership  
Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies  
Bachelor of Arts in Management  
Bachelor of Arts in Media Communication  
Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies  
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice  
Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences  
Bachelor of Science in Information Systems  
Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership  
Bachelor of Science in Supply Chain Management  
Master of Arts in Leadership and Organizational Studies  
Master of Arts in Psychology  
Master of Business Administration  
Master of Public Health  
Pre-Nursing Health Science Certificate