

February 27, 2025

Dr. Leonie Mattison
President and CEO
Pacifica Graduate Institute
249 Lambert Road
Carpinteria, CA 93013

Dear President Mattison:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Pacifica Graduate Institute (PacGI) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 14, 2025. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to Pacifica Graduate Institute October 2-4, 2024 using the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Pacifica Graduate Institute prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's January 10, 2025 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague Colin Marlaire, Provost and Vice President of 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 2030 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2030
4. Schedule a Special Visit in fall 2027 to address all areas for development in this letter
5. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by November 1, 2025 to address:
 - a. Approval of the strategic plan, values statement, and revised bylaws by board of trustees
 - b. Approval and implementation of faculty governance policy and structure
 - c. Revision of faculty handbook and faculty evaluation procedures
 - d. Updated student learning and persistence data on website
 - e. Implementation of the complaints and grievances ticketing system and centralized database
 - f. Implementation of the reimagined institutionally designated diversity council
 - g. Implementation of the institutionally initiated diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging action plan

- h. Development of an action plan based on the results of the 2024 employee climate survey
- i. WSCUC substantive change distance education approvals for hybrid academic programs

Commendations

The Commission commends the institution for:

- 1. Student learning assessment including new program review processes and establishment of rubrics.
- 2. Student support services including Care Line, Buddy Program, OSESS, Writing Resource Specialist, and Library Resources.
- 3. Progress in addressing the faculty omnibus resolution.
- 4. Approval of faculty rank and promotion policy.
- 5. Review of staff compensation by position resulting in adjustments to meet market averages.

Areas for Development

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

- 1. Prioritize and establish timelines and action plans for completion of the numerous projects, handbooks, structures, processes, and policies that are in progress. (CFR 1.7, 3.6, 3.10, 4.6)
- 2. Develop and implement an action plan building on the progress in the institutionally initiated commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) to identify and develop methods to address DEIB across the institution. (CFR 1.4, 1.6, 2.10, 3.1)
- 3. Examine the extent to which campus climate supports students, faculty, staff, and administrators, and act on the findings. (CFR 2.10)
- 4. Establish processes for tracking, monitoring, and analyzing student outcomes including a) retention rates, b) graduation rates, c) licensure pass rates, and d) post-graduation levels of student debt, and create action plans for continuous improvement. (CFR 2.10, 2.12, 2.13, 4.3)
- 5. Analyze student outcome data to identify potential achievement gaps among different student groups and implement action plans for continuous improvement. (CFR 2.4, 2.6, 2.10)
- 6. Ensure consistent communication through clear messaging and effective processes, particularly when facilitating change management. (CFR 3.6)
- 7. Carefully examine hybrid programs to assure compliance with distance education substantive change requirements. (CFR 1.8)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that Pacifica Graduate Institute completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under

the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, Pacifica Graduate Institute 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 Pacifica Graduate Institute's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Pacifica Graduate Institute 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 Pacifica Graduate Institute 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C N Oberg", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher N. Oberg
Interim President

CNO/so

Cc: Tracy Poon Tambascia, Commission Chair
Colin Marlaire, ALO
Thyonne Gordon, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit Team
Susan Opp, Vice President