

July 11, 2022

Dr. Allan Cahoon
President
Sofia University
1069 East Meadow
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Dear President Cahoon:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Sofia University (SofiaU) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 24, 2022. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to Sofia University April 12-14, 2022. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Sofia University prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's June 6, 2022 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Carol Humphreys, Provost and ALO; and Chris Nguyen, CFO. 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 fall 2027 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2028
4. Schedule a Special Visit in spring 2024 to address:
 - a. financial aid compliance.
 - b. internal financial controls.
 - c. institutional planning.
5. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by March 1, 2023 to address:
 - a. status of financial aid compliance.
 - b. internal financial control.
 - c. audited financial statements.

The Commission commends Sofia University in particular for the following:

1. An engaged, invested, and well-rounded Board that is both supportive and uniquely equipped in experience and expertise to oversee Sofia University's transformation.

2. Instructional technology and instructional design personnel who have assisted faculty and students in implementing shared and user-friendly course blueprints and are poised to assist faculty in moving Sofia University's online instruction to the next level.
3. A strong and vibrant enthusiasm for the future of the institution expressed by all constituents.
4. A meaningful self-study process that has yielded a greater understanding of and collaboration across the institution.
5. A university-wide commitment to a shared identity and commitment to transpersonal psychology.

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

1. Rectify the financial aid compliance and audit findings from multiple years, keeping WSCUC informed of your progress. (CFR 1.7, 1.8, 3.4)
2. Establish and document internal controls for all accounting functions. (CFR 1.7, 4.1)
3. Create a data-informed culture in which leaders have access to relevant information in order to make data-informed decisions. (CFR 4.1, 4.2)
4. Complete an institution-wide review of the organizational structure, qualifications, and knowledge base of faculty and staff and develop hiring practices and policies that support the future vision of the University. (CFR 1.4, 2.1, 3.1)
5. Undertake a mission-informed examination and further development of equity, inclusion, diversity, and accessibility that thoughtfully address student success equity gaps and policies and practices across the institution. (CFR 1.4, WSCUC Equity and Inclusion Policy)
6. Complete institutional planning with the strategic enrollment and marketing plan, the Academic Master Plan—including degree completion programs—and begin the next strategic planning cycle with action plans that include budgets and responsible personnel. (CFR 4.3, 4.6)
7. Increase regular communication between the Board of Trustees and university personnel, including both faculty and staff. (CFR 3.10)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that Sofia University addressed the three Core Commitments and successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, Sofia University 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 Sofia University's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Sofia University'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 Sofia 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,



Jamiene S. Studley
President

JSS/mbg

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair
Carol Humphreys, ALO
David Figuli, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Mark B. Goor, Vice President