

February 12, 2018

Dr. Jane Close Conoley
President
California State University, Long Beach
1250 Bellflower BLVD
Long Beach, CA 90840--0115

Dear Dr. Conoley:

This letter confirms that the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) is in receipt of your February 1, 2018 Progress Report. The Interim Report Committee requested the Progress Report in their letter dated January 29, 2016 and noted the following, which prompted the request:

Assessment. CSULB presented multiple examples of its extensive activities in assessment, which were mainly descriptive rather than analytical or reflective. The university provided descriptions of how well students are meeting the university's expectations for learning at program and course level, descriptions of how the university is using assessment to improve teaching, and the status of the assessment of institutional learning outcomes. However, the panel observed that little evidence was provided to support statements such as "students are meeting and exceeding the institution's expectations for student learning...." (p. 5). (CFRs 1.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6)

Further, the letter requested a Progress Report on the following:

1. **Define Student Success** (accounting for both completion and achievement of student learning outcomes), given the mission, values, and programs offered, and the characteristics of the students being served (CFRs 1.1, 2.4, 2.6, 2.10, 2.13)
2. **Provide at least two specific examples of institutional initiatives**, programs or projects that have been particularly effective in promoting student success and learning. Include information about the evidence that the university has collected and analyzed to determine the effectiveness of these efforts and explain how the lessons that have been learned are being applied, as appropriate, to expand the effort to more students or to additional academic programs (CFRs 2.6, 2.10, 2.13, 4.1, 4.3)

Your report shared in its definition of student success that several units across the university are working collaboratively to achieve their goals as described in CSULB Strategic Priorities and

Goals 2017-2020. Although the definition of student success shared in the first part of the report did not pertain specifically to student learning achievement, as requested in the Interim Report Committee request, which later changed to a Progress Report request, the two initiatives that followed in your report, the Highly Valued Degree Initiative, and the Core Competency Assessment Initiative did.

These Highly Valued Degree Initiative descriptions shared impressive results in achievement of improved persistence and graduation rates. The Core Competency Assessment Initiative described your continuing work and progress to engage in indirect and direct assessment of CSULB's core competencies. This work began with descriptive statistics of the numbers of departments expected to engage in direct assessment of a program level outcome, tied to a core competency, starting in the summer of 2018. It is understandable that the project has gotten off to a slow start, given the challenge presented by the Chancellor's Executive Order regarding general education. I look forward to seeing the outcomes of this project to measure core competencies in terms of learning outcomes achievement.

I anticipate seeing your ongoing impressive work to improve persistence and graduation at CSULB, as well as the results of the Core Competency Assessment Initiative demonstrating assessment goals and measurement toward those goals in your Reaffirmation Institutional Report due in the Spring of 2020. I will also look forward to seeing the results of your work on High Impact Practices on the achievement of learning outcomes goals.

Thank you for sharing this update on your assessment related achievements at CSULB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lori Williams", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lori Williams, PhD
Vice President

Cc: Brian Jersky, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Jody Cormack, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Programs & Dean of Graduate Studies
Sharlene Sayegh, Director of Program Review & Assessment & Accreditation Officer

985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100 Alameda, CA 94501 Phone: (510) 748-9001 efax: (510) 748-1477