

July 12, 2019

Dr. Mark Labberton
President
Fuller Theological Seminary
135 North Oakland Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91182

Dear President Labberton:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Fuller Theological Seminary (FTS) 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 FTS March 12-14, 2019. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by FTS prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's May 16, 2019 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague Mari Clements, Provost and Accreditation Liaison Officer (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 November 1, 2019 to provide an update on the sale of the Pasadena campus.
6. Schedule a Special Visit in spring 2022 to address
 - a. Student enrollment disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, program and modality illustrating growth trends.
 - b. Program review consistency across programs.
 - c. The office of institutional research and the data it generates, analyzes and makes public.
 - d. The use of data across the institution to inform decision-making.
 - e. The status of the relocation of the main campus and the financial impact of the sale of the current campus.

The Commission commends FTS in particular for the following:

1. Addressing its financial situation systematically and with discipline. While not complete, the steps the institution has taken so far and the financial plan it is

developing, if fully executed, position the institution to address declining enrollments and significant budget deficits.

2. Maintaining fidelity to mission while utilizing the strategic planning process to re-conceptualize its structures, consolidate and eliminate degree programs, reduce regional campuses, and expand educational delivery modalities to better serve students.
3. Making the difficult decision to move from Pasadena to Pomona, a location that better exemplifies the diverse communities with which FTS wishes to engage and that addresses the serious infrastructure issues of sustainability, deferred maintenance, and accessibility at the current location.
4. The provost, who has brought an open and inclusive approach to communication while at the same time insisting on responsibility and accountability.
5. The teaching and learning center for promoting faculty development by introducing and orienting them to online delivery and encouraging a culture of assessment.
6. The David Allan Hubbard Library for promptly addressing student and faculty research needs using a demand-driven acquisitions model.

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

1. Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the board of trustees to include ongoing training and development and the adoption of governance structures based on best practices. (CFR 3.9)
2. Trustees hold leadership accountable for achieving key performance indicators related to financial sustainability, fundraising, enrollment, diversity and inclusion, student success, and strategic planning goals. (CFR 3.9)
3. Implement the goals outlined in the FTS document “Strategic Approach Toward Inclusive Excellence” in ways that evidence that this is a shared commitment among all members of the FTS community. (CFR 1.4, 2.10)
4. Address student morale issues that arise from dissatisfaction with housing, financial aid, and co-curricular activities. (CFR 2.10, 2.11, 2.13)
5. Professionalize the functions of the office of institutional research to generate, disaggregate, analyze and disseminate data to inform decision-making, budgeting and resource allocation. (CFR 2.10, 4.2)
6. Ensure widespread understanding and implementation of assessment and program review processes by both fulltime and part-time faculty and the promotion of the

consistent use of analyses of direct evidence of student learning across the three schools. (CFR 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 2.10)

7. Use effective communication in an ongoing and transparent way to inform the FTS community about the possible consequences of right-sizing and the main campus relocation. (CFR 1.7, 3.7)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that FTS 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, FTS 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 FTS's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the FTS'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 Fuller Theological Seminary 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/ mam

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair
Mari Clements, ALO
Daniel Meyer, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Maureen A Maloney, Vice President