

July 11, 2022

Steven Brittan
President and CEO
Laguna College of Art and Design
2222 Laguna Canyon Road
Laguna Beach, CA 92651-1136

Dear President Brittan:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Laguna College of Art and Design (LCAD) 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 Laguna College of Art and Design March 1-4, 2022. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Laguna College of Art and Design prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's May 10, 2022 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague Nicole Leshner, Provost and 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 2029 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2030
4. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2025 to address all requirements listed in this letter.

The Commission commends Laguna College of Art and Design in particular for the following:

1. A self-study process that was a meaningful, unifying learning experience with input from all key constituents and that created energy and momentum for continuous improvement.
2. A strong senior staff that works openly and collaboratively as a cross-functional team.
3. A robust, pervasive academic assessment structure across the curriculum.
4. An expansion of institutional research that provides a foundation for data-informed decision-making.
5. A positive climate and sense of community among faculty and staff that fosters interdisciplinarity among academic and administrative departments.

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

1. Develop measurable metrics and clear lines of responsibility for tracking achievement of the strategic plan. (CFR 4.1, 4.3, 4.5)

2. Improve board effectiveness and efficiency by adopting best practices and enhancing expertise in higher education and fundraising. (CFR 3.9)
3. Clearly define and communicate the decision-making processes, so that all stakeholders understand how to engage with that process. (CFR 3.7, 3.10)
4. Create a co-curricular assessment process to identify ways to improve the student experience and inform institutional planning. (CFR 2.10, 2.11, 2.13)
5. Diversify revenue sources for strategic initiatives. (CFR 3.4)
6. Identify goals and measures for increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion across the institution. (CFR 1.4, 3.1)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that Laguna College of Art and Design 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, Laguna College of Art and Design 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 Laguna College of Art and Design's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Laguna College of Art and Design'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 Laguna College of Art and Design 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
Nicole Leshner, ALO
Veronica Grey, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Mark B. Goor, Vice President