

## FALL 2017 UPDATE

### WSCUC RE-AFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION

#### AY 2017-18 RE-AFFIRMATION TIMELINE

This is the final year of our reaffirmation of accreditation efforts. They began in January 2015 with the formation of the WSCUC Steering Committee.

This year's key dates and activities include:

DATE	ACTION
July 25, 2017	Institutional Report submitted to WSCUC
October 3, 2017	Offsite Review (OSR)
December 19, 2017	Additional documentation due to review team
February 27 – March 1, 2018	Accreditation Visit (AV)
June 2018	WSCUC Commission Reaffirms Accreditation for 6, 8, or 10 years

UC Merced's Accreditation Materials are available at <http://accreditation.ucmerced.edu/>. These include UC Merced's Institutional Report: <http://accreditation.ucmerced.edu/re-affirmation>.

#### THE OFFSITE REVIEW (OSR)

On October 2-3, the review team met to discuss UC Merced's Institutional Report and associated evidentiary appendices in light of UC Merced's accreditation history. Through its review the team identified

1. A set of commendations (see <http://accreditation.ucmerced.edu/re-affirmation>)
2. Lines of Inquiry for the Accreditation Visit
3. Additional documentation to support the team's review
4. Individuals and groups to meet during the Accreditation Visit

The OSR is designed to narrow the focus of the Accreditation Visit to the Lines of Inquiry identified by the team.

#### THE TEAM'S LINES OF INQUIRY (LOI)

The team identified four Lines of Inquiry for the Accreditation Visit. An overview follows.

1. **Campus character and identity:** The team will explore campus efforts to develop a unique campus identity in relation to our sister UC's and peer institutions, including how that identity is reflected in our strategic academic plan for growth.
2. **Student success:** The team will explore a) campus goals and plans for strengthening undergraduate retention and graduation rates, including the role of financial aid in promoting student success; b) campus enrollment goals and strategies for 10,000 students; c) example initiatives emerging from committees charged with supporting student success; and d) professional development activities available to faculty to help respond to the changing needs of a diverse student body.
3. **Program assessment, data analysis and impact on policy:** The team will explore a) how program assessment has informed program and policy changes; b) how the campus determines what program and performance data has the most value; c) results of the pilot of the Guide for Program Stewardship; and d) the engagement of non-Senate faculty in program assessment and quality assurance activities.
4. **Financial success and sustainability:** The team is interested in a) an update on progress with 2020; b) how the campus ensures our strategic resource decision making is connected to the teaching, research and public

service mission; and c) assumptions that underpin our campus budget model; and d) aspects of the pending new budget model.

The team will explore each LOI during the Accreditation Visit through meetings with relevant campus representatives. The meeting schedule is developed by the team, with input from the campus.

## ACCREDITATION VISIT: HOW CAN YOU INTERACT WITH THE REVIEW TEAM?

There are multiple ways to participate in the Accreditation Visit:

1. Participate in an open meeting for faculty, students, or staff
2. Email the team using the confidential email account
3. Share your thoughts about a Line of Inquiry with a WSCUC Steering Committee member
4. Be scheduled to join a meeting addressing a Line of Inquiry

The team's schedule for the Accreditation Visit will include meetings for students, faculty, and staff. These meetings are open to all members of the named constituency. Please plan to attend and share your views.

Before the Accreditation Visit, a confidential email address, to which only the review team has access, will be circulated to the entire campus community. If you are unable to attend an open meeting, have information to share following a meeting, or otherwise wish to communicate something to the team, you are encouraged to write to this address. Please know that the team will read, but will not reply to, your email.

If you are scheduled to join a meeting with the review team, please know you will be prepared to participate. Please also know that meeting participants are determined by the campus in consultation with the review team.

## REVIEW TEAM ROSTER



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Former Chancellor, UCI



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