

## *Charge to the WSCUC<sup>1</sup> Steering Committee for Reaffirmation of Accreditation*

*August 25, 2025*

Reporting to the Provost, the WSCUC Steering Committee oversees, coordinates, and ensures successful completion of all aspects of UC Merced's reaffirmation of accreditation process.

Toward this end, the Steering Committee develops campus strategies for, and oversees the implementation and completion of, the following elements of the institutional review process for reaffirmation.

1. The campus' self-review under the WSCUC Standards. This includes summarizing findings and proposing follow-on actions, as necessary.
2. Completion of the Compliance with 2023 WSCUC Standards Worksheet. This includes facilitating any needed revisions to policy.
3. Development of the outline of the campus' self-study.
4. Development of the campus' self-study, including campus review and approval.
5. Campus preparations for both the Off-site Review (fall 2027) and Accreditation Visit (spring 2028). This includes the campus' response to questions emerging from the Off-site Review.

In keeping with the institutional nature of this work, the Steering Committee facilitates wide-spread engagement of campus stakeholders in the reaffirmation process, including faculty, lecturing faculty, staff, and students. Stakeholders will help to ask and answer questions related to WSCUC Standards of Accreditation, which are designed to advance quality, accountability, and improvement in service of equitable student learning, student success, and institutional effectiveness, and the supporting Criteria for Review (CFR).

The Committee's work will commence in fall 2025 and conclude in spring 2028 following the campus' Accreditation Visit in spring 2028 and the Commission's granting of reaffirmation in June 2028. It is anticipated that the full Committee will meet five times during AY 25-26 and three times during AY 26-27.

### Membership

#### *Faculty*

Heather Bortfeld, SSHA, Steering Committee Chair, faculty member  
Susan Varnot, SSHA, Undergraduate Council, representative  
Harish Bhat, SNS, Graduate Council, representative  
Pooja Chopra, SoE, Non-Senate Academics Council, representative  
Mukesh Singhal, SoE, faculty representative  
Brian Utter, SNS, faculty representative  
*Pending*, SSHA, faculty representative

#### *Administration*

Amy Bergerson, Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education  
Hrant Hratchian, Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education  
Christiane Spitzmueller, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Strategy  
Tonantzin Oseguera, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Engagement  
Kurt Schnier, Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer  
Delia Saenz, Vice Chancellor, Equity, Justice and Inclusive Excellence  
Sara Davidson Squibb, Associate University Librarian  
Laura Martin, Accreditation Liaison Officer

#### *Students*

Metzli Montero, GSA presentative  
Aaron-James Sanchez, ASUCM representative

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