

July 12, 2021

Dr. Derry Connolly  
President  
John Paul the Great Catholic University  
220 West Grand Avenue  
Escondido, CA 92025

Dear President Connolly:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning John Paul the Great Catholic University (JPGCU) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 25, 2021. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to JPGCU March 10-12, 2021. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by JPGCU prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's April 16, 2021 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Bob Keith, Chief Academic Officer/ALO and Martin Harold, Executive Vice President, Advancement and Enrollment. 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 2028 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2029
4. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2025 to address:
  - a. A strategy to address cultural, gender, racial, disability, and ethnic diversity at all levels, including training for faculty, staff, administration, and trustees.
  - b. A strategy that uses assessment results for continuous improvement, including clearly articulating the connection between Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) and Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and formalizing both direct and indirect curricular and co-curricular assessment processes.

The Commission commends JPGCU in particular for the following:

1. Managing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in a manner that was sensitive to the health and safety of the campus community while ensuring the student learning experience continued with as few disruptions as possible.
2. Implementing a faculty governance culture that encourages collaboration and engages faculty in key decisions.
3. Appropriately using data in decision-making and effectively managing the teach-out of graduate programs.
4. Implementing a comprehensive review process and engaging faculty in a robust assessment program.
5. Providing students with opportunities to engage in practical learning experiences that are valuable in acquiring professional skills.
6. Developing policies, procedures, and handbooks that are effective, thorough, and appropriate for the university.

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

1. Develop a strategy to address cultural, gender, racial, disability, and ethnic diversity at all levels, including training for faculty, staff, administration, and trustees. (CFRs 1.4, 3.1)
2. Provide additional professional development resources to ensure greater stability of personnel and adjust faculty teaching load to alleviate excessive demands on time. (CFR 3.1 and 3.3)
3. Create an institutional strategy that uses assessment results for continuous improvement, including clearly articulating the connection between Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) and Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and formalizing both direct and indirect curricular and co-curricular assessment processes. (CFRs 4.1, 4.3)
4. Establish a risk management policy, approved by the board of trustees, that directs the administration to provide regular reports on the assessment of institutional risks and corresponding mitigation measures. (CFRs 1.7, 3.7)
5. Determine a list of peer institutions for benchmarking key institutional metrics and implement strategies to improve tracking and support of at-risk students, including disaggregating retention and graduation data. (CFRs 2.7, 4.1)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that JPGCU 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, JPGCU 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 JPGCU's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the JPGCU'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 JPGCU 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/thh

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair  
Bob Keith, ALO  
Mark Wieczorek, Board Chair  
Members of the Accreditation Visit team  
Tamela H. Hawley, Vice President