

July 11, 2022

Dr. Frank Papatheofanis
President
University of Saint Katherine
277 Rancheros Drive, Suite 200
San Marcos, CA 92069

Dear Dr. Papatheofanis:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning University of Saint Katherine (USK) 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 University of Saint Katherine February 8-11, 2022. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by University of Saint Katherine prior to the Offsite Review (OSR) and the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Marina Trigonis, Dean of Admissions, Registrar, and ALO; and Daniel Braun, President Board of Trustees. 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 six years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2027 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2028
4. Schedule a Special Visit in fall 2025 to address all requirements in this letter
5. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by November 1, 2024 to address:
 - a. Enrollment.
 - b. Resolution of 2020 Financial Audits.

The Commission commends University of Saint Katherine in particular for the following:

1. Growing enrollment from 2017 to 2021, especially considering uncertainty amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Transitioning to a new, aesthetically pleasing, modern space which provides opportunities for continued institutional growth and success.

3. Prioritizing a collaborative, cooperative, and connected community that emphasizes relationships, resulting in an environment that supports student success.
4. Implementing the writing-across-the-curriculum program, the integrated core approach to general education, and senior capstone projects.
5. Creating a sense of connectedness for adjunct faculty through effective onboarding and inclusion in curriculum development and the academic community at large.
6. Expertly developing and launching the initial online master's program that ensures student success and provides a strong foundation for future online master's programs.

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

1. Create and implement an effective strategic marketing and enrollment plan that provides a pathway for growing enrollment, especially recruiting students who are not engaged in athletics. (CFRs 3.4, 4.6)
2. Effectively disaggregate student success data for the purpose of understanding the different needs of all student populations and providing support that results in student success. (CFRs 2.10, 4.2)
3. Develop internal awareness and implement best practices in student learning assessment, program evaluation, and institutional research. (CFR 4.2)
4. Substantively engage faculty in strategic planning, curriculum development, and decision making. (CFR 4.6)
5. Integrate the newly hired Chief Financial Officer to develop an inclusive strategic budgeting process and resolve audit findings. (CFR 3.8)
6. Develop a sustainable financial posture incorporating a multi-year horizon that provides sufficient resources to support institutional growth and maintain a prudent cash reserve, positive net cash position, and healthy equity investment. (CFR 3.4)
7. As more full-time faculty are hired to support ambitious program development goals, articulate expectations for faculty across teaching, service, and scholarship, and document a clear process and timeline for promotion. (CFRs 3.1, 3.2)
8. Reviews the effectiveness of its Board practices and adopts appropriate committee structures to advance its mission. (CFR 3.9)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that University of Saint Katherine 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, University of Saint Katherine 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 University of Saint Katherine's governing board. The Commission expects that the team

report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on University of Saint Katherine'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 University of Saint Katherine 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
Marina Trigonis, ALO
Daniel Braun, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Mark B. Goor, Vice President