WASC Senior College and
University Commission

CHAIR
William A. Ladusaw
University of California, Santa Cruz

VICE CHAIR
Margaret Kasimatis
Loyola Marymount University

Jeffrey Armstrong
*California Polytechnic State
University, San Luis Obispo*

Janna Bersi
*California State University,
Dominguez Hills*

Richard Bray
*Accrediting Commission
for Schools WASC*

Linda Buckley
University of the Pacific

Ronald L. Carter
Loma Linda University

William Covino
*California State University,
Los Angeles*

Christopher T. Cross
Public Member

Reed Dasenbrock
University of Hawaii at Manoa

Phillip Doolittle
Brandman University

John Etchemendy
Stanford University

Margaret Gaston
Public Member

Erin Gore
Public Member

Dianne F. Harrison
*California State University,
Northridge*

Barbara Karlin
Golden Gate University

Linda Katehi
University of California, Davis

Adrianna Kezar
University of Southern California

Fernando Leon-Garcia
CETYS University

Devorah Lieberman
University of La Verne

Kay Llovio
William Jessup University

Stephen Privett, S.J.
University of San Francisco

Barry Ryan
United States University

Sharon Salinger
University of California, Irvine

Sandra Serrano
*Accrediting Commission for
Community and Junior Colleges*

Tomoko Takahashi
Soka University of America

Ramon Torrecilha
*California State University,
Dominguez Hills*

Jane Wellman
Public Member

Leah Williams
Public Member

PRESIDENT
Mary Ellen Petrisko

March 2, 2016

Dr. Ali Rashid Al-Noami
Vice Chancellor
United Arab Emirates University
P. O. Box 15551
Al Ain, Abu Dhabi 15551

Dear Vice Chancellor Al-Noami:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 17-19, 2016. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the first Seeking Accreditation Visit (SAV1) to UAEU November 10-12, 2015. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by the school prior to the SAV1, and the institution's January 21, 2016 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the review with your colleague Provost Mohamed Albali. Your comments were very helpful in informing the Commission's deliberations.

Based on the team's report and the other information sources as identified above, the Commission has determined that UAEU is in substantial compliance with the four WSCUC Standards of Accreditation, thus making the institution eligible for Initial Accreditation effective February 19, 2016.

Actions

1. Receive the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 team report

2. Grant Initial Accreditation for a period of six years

3. Schedule the reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2021 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2021.

4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review in spring 2019

5. Schedule a Special Visit in fall 2018 focused on the recommendations cited below.

Commendations:

The Commission endorses the commendations cited in the team report and especially commends UAEU for the following:

1. The commitment to educating Emiratis, especially females, to fulfill the aspirations of the citizenry and the nation. The Commission is aware that the team heard some concern on campus about the 'imbalance' in the overall numbers of male and female students at UAEU but supports the team's commendation, having determined that the success of the university in educating women in all fields is remarkable and deserves praise.

2. The culture of assessment of teaching and learning, as all course and program learning outcomes are aligned with institutional learning outcomes (ILOs).

3. The superb preparation for the WSCUC visit. The self-study was one of the very best the visiting team has ever seen, and the accreditation liaison officer and the WSCUC Steering Committee saw to every detail of the visit.

4. The commitment to WSCUC methodologies and processes and the institution's quick response to recommendations at every stage of the process.

5. The investment in the construction and design of state-of-the-art facilities, including classrooms, laboratories, and collaborative learning spaces. The physical campus is simply remarkable.

6. The initiative in establishing the Science and Innovation Park to promote innovation and research in the UAE.

7. The embrace by the university of a leading role in the future of the United Arab Emirates: as the nation's economy transitions from an oil-based to a knowledge-based economy, it will need a major research university. UAEU is positioning itself well in that regard.

Recommendations

The Commission has identified the following issues for further improvement.

1. That UAEU continue the evolution of board governance in keeping with best international practices, as advocated by such organizations as the *Association of Governing Boards (AGB)* (CFR 3.9).

2. That UAEU investigate, and to the extent possible, address the underlying conditions that are causing high faculty turnover, as it will need to retain talented faculty for longer periods than at present to continue its emergence as a research university (CFRs 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3).

3. While the team commends UAEU for doing so much to promote the development of Emirati into capable university staff, faculty and administrators, it is recommended that this policy be recognized as an appropriate form of affirmative action aligned with the government policy of '*emiratization*,' and that this be openly acknowledged as a policy direction of the university (CFRs 1.6, 3.2).

2

4. That UAEU further develop the staffing, collections, services, and infrastructure of its Library, to better serve the needs of 21st century students and faculty (CFR 3.5).

5. That UAEU pay renewed attention to students' and graduates' proficiency in English. The Commission recognizes that any change in admission requirements will require a national conversation, both about admission requirements and about English teaching in pre-tertiary education. If such change is not forthcoming, UAEU will probably need to consider curricular changes to ensure that student proficiency in English is adequate for student success (CFRs 2.2a, 2.2b).

6. That UAEU consider the commitment of resources necessary to support the move to a more focused emphasis on graduate studies and research, and how this fits with its primary mission of undergraduate education. The Commission understands that this depends at least in part upon a national conversation, and it believes that UAEU has a role to play in that national conversation (CFRs 3.4, 3.5).

By granting Initial Accreditation, the Commission confirms that United Arab Emirates University has satisfactorily addressed the Core Commitments to Student Learning and Success; Quality and Improvement; and Institutional Integrity, Sustainability, and Accountability and is found to be in substantial compliance with WSCUC's 2103 Standards of Accreditation. Between this action and the time of the next review, the institution is expected to maintain its compliance with WSCUC Standards and uphold its commitment to continuous quality improvement.

Accreditation status is not granted retroactively. Institutions granted the status of accreditation must use the following statement if they wish to describe the status publicly:

> United Arab Emirates University is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001.

The accredited status of a program should not be misrepresented. The accreditation granted by WSCUC refers to the quality of the institution as a whole. Because institutional accreditation does not imply specific accreditation of any particular program at the institution, statements such as "this program is accredited" or "this degree is accredited" are incorrect and misleading. The phrase "fully accredited" is also to be avoided, since no partial accreditation is possible.

The Commission stipulates that this action encompasses the degrees offered by UAEU at the time of this action, as listed at the end of this letter as the Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees. In keeping with the WSCUC Policy on Degree Level Approval, UAEU is designated as having an "I" (Individual) status for each of the degree levels currently being offered. This means that all new degree programs initiated by the institution will require prior approval through WSCUC's Substantive Change process. Degree programs that have been reviewed and included under this action may be extended to other currently approved campuses of the institution without

prior Substantive Change action. Offerings at new locations may need to go through Substantive Change approval, in accordance with the requirements stated in the Substantive Change manual.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of the UAEU governing board in one week. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be widely disseminated 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.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that UAEU 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 participation in this process. Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Petrisko
President

cc: William Ladusaw, WSCUC Commission Chair
        Hamdan Al Nahayn, Chancellor, UAEU
        Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 Team
        Richard Osborn, WSCUC Staff Liaison

Please see the attached list: UAEU All Under Graduate and Graduate Programs.

Degrees Being Offered by United Arab Emirates University
at the time of the Accreditation Visit

College of Humanities & Social Sciences
1. Bachelor of Arts in Arabic Language and Literature
2. Bachelor of Arts in English Literature
3. Bachelor of Arts in History

4. Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy
   − Track: General Philosophy
   − Track: Citizenship and Civil Society
   − Track: Philosophy of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

5. Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication
   − Track: Journalism
   − Track: Public Relations and Advertising
   − Track: Radio Broadcasting
   − Track: Television Broadcasting

6. Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics
7. Bachelor of Arts in Applied Linguistics/ TESOL
8. Bachelor of Arts in Translation Studies
9. Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
10. Bachelor of Arts in Sociology
11. Bachelor of Social Work

12. Bachelor of Arts in Geography
   − Track: Environmental Geography
   − Track: Geoinformatics
   − Track: Urban Planning

13. Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
14. Bachelor of Arts in Leadership and Society
15. Bachelor of Arts in Tourism Studies
16. Bachelor of Arts in Double Major: Any two Programs offered by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
17. Master of Science in Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems
18. Master of Science in Clinical Psychology
19. Master of Governance and Public Policy
20. Master of Social Work
21. Doctor of Philosophy

College of Science
1. Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
2. Bachelor of Science in Physics
3. Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

4. Bachelor of Science in Biology
  − Track: General Biology
  − Track: Cellular & Molecular Biology
  − Track: Ecological and Environmental Biology

5. Bachelor of Science in Geology
  − Track: Applied Geology
  − Track: Petroleum Geology

6. Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry
7. Master of Science in Environmental Sciences
8. Master of Science in Chemistry
9. Master of Science in Mathematics
10. Master of Science in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
11. Master of Science in Physics
12. Doctor of Philosophy

College of Education
1. Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education

2. Bachelor of Education in Elementary Education
  − Track: English Language
  − Track: Islamic Studies & Arabic Language
  − Track: Mathematics & Science
  − Track: Social Studies & Civics

3. Bachelor of Education in Special Education
  − Track: Mild/Moderate Disabilities
  − Track: Gifted and Talented
  − Track: Sensory Impairments
  − Track: Severe Disabilities

4. Bachelor of Education in Art Education
5. Bachelor of Education in Preparatory and Secondary Education

6. Master of Education
– Track: Curriculum and Instruction
– Track: Educational Leadership
– Track: Special Education
7. Master of Teaching
– Track: English Language
– Track: Arabic Language and Islamic Studies
– Track: Mathematics
– Track: Science
– Track: Social Studies
8. Doctor of Philosophy

College of Business and Economics
1. Bachelor of Accounting
2. Bachelor of Economics
3. Bachelor of Finance and Banking
4. Bachelor of Statistics
5. Bachelor of Management Information Systems
6. Bachelor of Business Administration
– Track: Marketing
– Track: Human Resources Development and Management
– Track: Supply Chain Management and Logistics
– Track: Entrepreneurship
– Double Track: Any two tracks offered within the Bachelor of Business Administration
7. Master of Business Administration
8. Master of Professional Accounting
9. Doctorate of Business Administration

College of Law
1.Bachelor of Law
2. Master of Public Law
3. Master of Private Law
4. Master of International Trade Law

College of Food and Agriculture

1. Bachelor of Science in Horticulture
2. Bachelor of Science in Marine Fisheries and Animal Science
3. Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness
4. Bachelor of Science in Food Science
5. Bachelor of Science in Nutritional Science
6. Bachelor of Science in Dietetics
7. Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine
8. Master of Science in Horticulture
9. Master of Agribusiness Management
10. Master of Science in Food Science
11. Doctor of Philosophy

College of Engineering

1. Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
2. Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering
3. Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Engineering
4. Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering
5. Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering
6. Bachelor of Science in Communication Engineering
7. Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
8. Master of Science in Material Science and Engineering
9. Master of Science in Civil Engineering
10. Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering
11. Master of Science in Electrical Engineering
12. Master of Science in Water Resources
13. Master of Science in Architectural Engineering
14. Master of Science in Chemical Engineering
15. Master of Science in Petroleum Engineering
16. Master of Science in Petroleum Geosciences
17. Master of Engineering Management
18. Doctor of Philosophy

College of Medicine and Health Sciences

1. Bachelor of Medical Sciences
2. Doctor of Medicine

3. Master of Public Health
4. Master of Medical Sciences
− Track: Pharmacology and Toxicology
− Track: Microbiology and Immunology
− Track: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
5. Doctor of Pharmacy
6. Doctor of Philosophy

College of Information Technology
1. Bachelor of Science in Information Technology

− Track: Computer Systems Design
    − Track: E-Commerce
    − Track: Enterprise Systems
    − Track: Information Security
    − Track: Intelligent Systems
    − Track: Networking
    − Track: Software Development

2. Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering
3. Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
4. Bachelor of Science in Information Security
5. Master of Science in E-Business
6. Master of Science in IT Management
7. Master of Science in Information Security
8. Master of Science in Network Engineering
9. Master of Science in Software Engineering
10. Master of Science in Information Technology
11. Doctor of Philosophy