

March 6, 2024

Dr. Robert Chi
President
Virscend University
16490 Bake Parkway
Suite 100
Irvine, CA 92618

Dear President Chi:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Virscend University (VU) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 16, 2024. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 3 to VU September 21-22, 2023 using the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by VU prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 3 and the institution's October 6, 2023 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Melody Kiang, Provost, Ryan Swindell, Director of Student Success, and Lesley Chen, Chief Financial Officer. 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 Seeking Accreditation Visit 3 team report
2. Grant Initial Accreditation for a period of six years
3. Allow the date of Initial Accreditation to be applied retroactively to September 1, 2023
4. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2029 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2029
5. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by November 1, 2026 to address: continued progress on financial sustainability, strategic planning, and strategic enrollment management.

Commendations

The Commission commends the institution for:

1. The university's fiscal outlook, which has leveraged scenario planning to create realistic budgets that contemplate variables and provide a path for long term sustainability.

2. The strategic plan which has clear goals and objectives, with identified responsible parties, and links to budgetary needs.
3. The enrollment projections, which are thoughtful, with consideration of conservative growth, based on institutional historical data and external evidence.

Areas for Development

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following areas for development:

1. Develop a strategic growth and staffing plan and correlated budget for anticipated growth in student enrollment based upon projections, signed MOUs, articulation agreements, and anticipated new program enrollments. (CFR 3.4)
2. Strengthen collaborative budget planning within all academic and non-academic departments of the University. (CFR 3.4)

In taking this action to grant Initial Accreditation, the Commission confirmed that VU completed the institutional review process for Initial Accreditation conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, VU 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.

VU must use the following statement if it wishes to describe its accreditation status publicly:

VU is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 1080 Marina Village Parkway, Suite 500, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001.

Federal law requires that the WSCUC address and phone number appear in your catalog.

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 stipulated that this action encompassed the degrees offered by VU at the time of this action, as listed at the end of this letter as the Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees. Any proposed new degree programs, off-campus sites, online offerings, and/or changes in governance or ownership require review and approval through the Substantive Change process. Degree programs 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 is being sent to the chair of VU's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the VU'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 VU 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: Tracy Poon Tambascia, Commission Chair
Melody Kiang, ALO
Bruce Lee, Board Chair
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 3 team
Tamela Hawley, Vice President

Attachment: Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees

Virscend University
Active Programs as of February 2024

Master of Business Administration