July 8, 2020

Dr. Frank Papatheofanis  
President  
University of Saint Katherine  
1637 Capalina Road  
San Marcos, CA 92069

Dear President Papatheofanis:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the University of Saint Katherine (USK) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 26, 2020. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Special Visit to the University of Saint Katherine February 27-28, 2020. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by the University of Saint Katherine prior to the Special Visit and the institution’s May 8, 2020 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you, and your colleagues Marina Trigonis, ALO, and Daniel Braun, Board Chair. Your comments were very helpful in informing the Commission’s deliberations. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution’s status with WSCUC.

Actions

1. Receive the Special Visit team report that focused on: (1) adding sources of revenue; (2) enhancing Strategic Planning with data from IR, budget information, and input from faculty; (3) further developing recruitment and retention strategies; and (4) enhancing Board effectiveness with development.
2. Remove a Formal Notice of Concern
3. Continue with the previously scheduled reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2021 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2022

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

1. Building an interlinked, interwoven, collaborative, cooperative community that is working together toward a shared vision of the future.
2. The Board of Trustees’ commitment, active engagement, and generosity.
3. Including all campus constituencies in the strategic planning process.
4. Systemic thinking related to recruitment and retention in which faculty, staff, and coaches work collaboratively to support student success.
5. Fostering a significant and rapid improvement in institutional culture, climate, and effectiveness
through strategic hiring of qualified personnel.

6. The faculty, staff, and coaches’ passion and dedication to students and their success.

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

1. Continue its progress in strengthening day-to-day financial operations. (CFR 3.4)

2. Continue its progress in finding new sources of revenue. (CFR 3.4)

3. Continue to link the strategic plan with budget development and resource allocations. (CFR 4.6)

4. Continue to build a formal board structure appropriate for an institution of higher education by activating standing committees and implementing intentional board education. (CFR 3.9)

5. Research external factors that will help the institution to anticipate and respond to a changing higher educational environment. (CFR 4.7)

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of the 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 the 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 the 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,

Jamienne S. Studley
President

JSS/mbg

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair
    Marina Trigonis, ALO
    Daniel Braun, Board Chair
    Members of the Special Visit team
    Mark B. Goor, Vice President