November 13, 2013

Christopher Kimball
President
California Lutheran University
60 West Olsen Road
Thousand Oaks, CA  91360

Dear President Kimball:

During its November 8, 2013 meeting, the Structural Change Committee of the WASC Senior College and University Commission considered the proposal submitted by California Lutheran University (CLU) to merge with Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS). California Lutheran University will be the sole surviving entity and governing board with fiduciary responsibility and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary will be the disappearing corporation (current plans are to make this change effective January 1, 2014). All assets, property, rights and powers will be vested in California Lutheran University, the final surviving corporation. By WASC policy this requires structural change approval by the Commission.

Consideration of this structural change follows submission by the institution of a full proposal, review by a panel of members of the Substantive Change Committee, a site visit by members of the review panel on September 13, 2013, and submission of a site visit report. The Committee had access to the original CLU proposal and related materials, the letter from WASC staff communicating the findings of the Substantive Change Committee action of August 23, 2013, and the site visit report.

The Structural Change Committee endorsed the findings of the Substantive Change Committee and the site visit report.

The Structural Change Committee referred to the full Commission its recommendation that the merger between CLU and PLTS be approved. This recommendation was ratified by the Commission as further described below:

1. Approve the merger between California Lutheran University and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary with implementation to be completed within a period of six months

2. Require a federally mandated follow-up visit within six months of implementation

3. Include a response to the Substantive Change Committee recommendations from the September 13, 2013 site visit report in CLU’s institutional report due 3 months in advance of the fall 2014 Offsite Review.

It is the responsibility of California Lutheran University to notify the Commission immediately of the date of closing of the merger and the completion of all other
necessary approvals for implementation of that change, so that the Commission can be advised of any conditions placed on the transaction by other parties and can set a date for the six-month site visit.

This letter and substantive change visit report will be posted on the WASC website in accordance with WASC Commission policy. If CLU would like to respond to the Commission’s findings, a link to your response will be posted on the WASC website.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Petrisko
President

Cc: Rodney A. Reynolds, ALO
    Members of the Substantive Change Committee
    Members of the Structural Change Committee
    Maureen A. Maloney, WASC Vice President