November 19, 2018

Vivian Sanchez
CEO
University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences
700 Windy Point Drive
San Marcos, CA 92069

Dear Ms. Sanchez:

During its November 7-9, 2018 meeting, the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) considered a proposal submitted by University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (USAHS) for a Change of Ownership to Altas Partners. This change is a Structural Change, defined by the WSCUC Substantive Change Policy as a change in mission, ownership, legal status, or control.

Consideration of this Structural Change follows submission by the institution of a proposal and its subsequent review by a panel of the Substantive Change Committee via teleconference on July 25, 2018, subsequent submission of additional information requested by the panel, and an on-site visit to the USAHS campus in San Marcos, CA on September 28, 2018. During its November 7-9, 2018 meeting, the Structural Change Committee of the Commission reviewed the original Structural Change application materials, letter from WSCUC staff conveying the findings of the Substantive Change Committee panel, the visiting team report, and additional materials which had been requested to supplement the proposal. The Structural Change Committee also had access to the institution’s accreditation history and past Commission action letters.

The Structural Change Committee decided to endorse the findings of the Substantive Change Committee panel and refer to the full Commission its recommendation that the Change of Ownership be approved.

After deliberation, the Commission acted to:

1. Receive the Structural Change Committee recommendation;
2. Approve the proposed Change of Ownership to Altas Partners. Upon closing of the transaction, any material changes in the proposed terms must be reported immediately to WSCUC to determine if further review or action is necessary;
3. Require a post-implementation visit within six months of implementation to address the following recommendations:
   a. Ensure that enrollment plans continue to be aligned with the mission and strategic plan. (CFR 3.4)
   b. Review the mission statement within 12 months of the transition to ensure it meets the long term vision and needs of the institution and its constituents. (CFR 1.1, 1.4)
   c. Continue to maintain the independence of the Board of Directors given the changes in ownership. (CFR 3.9, 4.7)
d. Ensure that the university is able to provide optimal levels of services to support a growing student body, especially in the areas of classroom, technology, labs, and student facing infrastructural support to assure student completion. (CFR 2.10, 3.4, 3.5)

e. Maintain independence in financial decision making and ensure that enrollment projections and tuition assumptions are realistic and align with the strategic direction of the university. (CFR 3.4)

It is the responsibility of USAHS to notify the Commission immediately of the completion of the transaction and the completion of all other necessary approvals for implementation of this change.

This letter will be posted on the WSCUC website in accordance with WSCUC Commission policy. If USAHS would like to respond to the Commission’s findings, a link to your response will be posted on the WSCUC website.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for USAHS’s cooperation during this Structural Change 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 or comments about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,

Jamienne S. Studley
President

cc: Members of the Substantive Change Committee panel
     John Hausaman, Director of Substantive Change and Committee Relations
     Lori Williams, Vice President