

Hello, thank you for joining us today.

My name is Judy Sakaki, chair of the WSCUC review team. I am joined by outstanding colleagues, Stephen Shellenberg, assistant chair, and team members Gloria Niles, Joe Slowensky, and Myeshia Armstrong. This review team comprises individuals who bring a wealth of experience from five other institutions and the accreditation process. We began by familiarizing ourselves with the requirements of the Commission Action Letter from your 2022 visit then reading your Institutional Report and attachments. This week, we met with your community to confirm our observations. The accreditation process aims to evaluate your progress in the areas specified by the Commission Action Letter as well as other areas that became apparent to the team during the report reading and interview process. The team noted what is going well and where we think the university needs to focus its attention to improve.

We are grateful for how you organized our interviews and responded to our requests for additional documents and adjusting the schedule. We want to particularly acknowledge your ALO, Seri Luangphinit, for her outstanding work and for Steve Young for arranging the details of our visit as well as providing transportation.

We also want to recognize and affirm the hard work that all of you put into your report and for your participation in interviews. You offered insights into your progress, provided essential updates, and shared your plans for the future. As a result of this review, we have come to better understand your institution and your leadership, faculty, staff, and students.

According to WSCUC, the process and this meeting follow a prescribed protocol. I have just met with your chancellor to discuss our observations. Again, our responsibility is to review your institutional report and supporting documentation and interview key constituents. Then, based on that review, we provide our findings, conclusions, commendations, and recommendations to the Commission. We provide recommendations, but it is up to the Commission to make the final determination regarding the status of accreditation and requirements and timeline for future interaction.

I will now read our list of commendations and recommendations without further comment. After I finish reading the commendations and recommendations, I will explain the next steps in the process and then end this presentation.

With that said, here are the team's 3 commendations and 5 recommendations.

Commendations

The team commends the University of Hawaii at Hilo for:

1. Faculty embracing the process of program review, drawing on data and evidence to make informed decisions regarding program improvements.
2. Faculty launching a robust, multi-year cycle of program learning outcomes assessment, employing best practices and using findings to improve curriculum.
3. Faculty Congress taking the initiative to develop a shared governance policy informed by extensive research.

Recommendations

The team recommends that UH Hilo:

1. Develop a unified public Strategic Plan that reconciles the three current plans, specifically the *UHH Papahana Ho'olālā Hikiāloa (Ho-o-lala Heke-a-loa) Strategic Plan: 2021-2031*, the *UH Hilo Hawai'i Papa O Ke Ao Plan*, and the *UH Hilo Community-Anchored Strategic Vision for 2030*. (CFR 4.6, 4.7)

2. Develop and implement a comprehensive enrollment management plan that addresses UHH's significant enrollment decline through specific actions designed to meet an enrollment target. (CFR 2.10, 3.4)
3. Establish explicit pathways that enhance clear two-way communication among all campus constituents around university policies, processes, and decision-making. (CFR 1.7, 3.7)
4. Institutionalize a culture of data-informed decision-making and develop Institutional Research capacity. (CFR 4.1, 4.2, 4.3)
5. Adopt a proactive approach to financial planning by developing a multi-year budget plan, including any anticipated use of reserves, to ensure greater fiscal sustainability. (CFR 3.4, 3.7, 4.7)

From this point on, several things will happen.

First, we will finalize our written report during the next two to three weeks. We will then send a draft to your chancellor and ALO with a request that they review the report for factual corrections. Once those corrections have been made, Marcy Ramsey from the WSCUC office will send the institution the final report with a request for an optional formal response.

Your Institutional Report, the final Team Report, and your Optional Response will be shared with the WSCUC Commission before their June 2024 meeting. Your chancellor and ALO will be invited to attend the Commission panel meeting. They may attend in person or others can participate through Zoom.

After that meeting, you will receive a Commission Action Letter with their decisions regarding reaffirmation, recommendations, and any potential future

review. Please continue to communicate with your WSCUC Vice President, Mark Goor, with any questions. He will guide you in responding to the team report and in preparing for the Commission panel.

On behalf of our team, thank you for graciously hosting this Special Visit, for your dedication to improving the University of Hawaii at Hilo, and for your commitment to the success of your students and their impact on all of our communities.