

July 9, 2026

Dr. Adela de la Torre
President
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-8000

Dear President de la Torre:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning San Diego State University (SDSU) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 26, 2026. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation (TPR) Accreditation Visit to San Diego State University March 25-27, 2026, using the 2023 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by San Diego State University prior to the Accreditation Visit, and the institution's May 18, 2026, response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Madhavi McCall, Associate Vice President for Curriculum, Assessment, and Accreditation; Brittany Santos-Derieg, Chief of Staff, Office of the President; and Sonja Pruitt-Lord, Vice Provost.

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 Accreditation Visit Team Report
2. Reaffirm accreditation for a period of ten years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2035 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2036
4. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2030, to address:
 - a. advising: continue building a coherent, well-coordinated advising structure that integrates Coordinated Care Advising and Major Advising, with attention to role clarity, staffing, professional development, and career pathways for advising staff. (CFRs 2.12, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)
 - b. graduate education planning: develop a structured plan for the assessment and continuous improvement of graduate education, including a dedicated enrollment management strategy, program evaluation, enhanced student support, and purposeful attention to the specific needs of joint doctoral students with UC and other university partners. (CFRs 2.4, 2.13, 4.5)

- c. strategic planning for additional locations: engage in deliberate strategic planning for the campus's additional locations, prioritizing Imperial Valley and any emerging sites, with emphasis on enrollment management, infrastructure, academic staffing, and support services across all locations. (CFRs 1.2, 2.13, 3.4, 4.8)
- d. financial planning: an integrated multi-year financial plan that identifies funding sources and allocations supporting the institution's improvements to its advising system, graduate education, research, and expansion to additional locations. (CFR 3.4)

Commendations

The Commission commends the institution for the following:

1. Advancing access and student preparation through K-16 partnerships established across the local region.
2. Improving aggregated graduation rates for both undergraduate and graduate students.
3. Expanding its definitions of academic student success outcomes to reflect a more comprehensive understanding of student achievement.
4. Reshaping general education in meaningful ways that better serve student learning and success.
5. Increasing career readiness by creating career tracks that provide students with clear and purposeful pathways beyond graduation and exploring how to associate career competencies with courses and programs.
6. Ensuring holistic well-being by providing strong wrap-around services for both residential and commuter students.
7. Leveraging data, metrics, and assessment findings to inform policy decisions and drive continuous improvement in academic programs that advance student success.
8. Growing research productivity despite limited resources to achieve R-1 status, reflecting a strong commitment to scholarly excellence.
9. Building strong and productive collaborations with the City of San Diego and with the Imperial Valley.

Areas for Development

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

1. Ensure that student subpopulations achieve comparable graduation outcomes, with particular attention to the success of Pell-eligible students. (CFR 4.2)
2. Continue developing the advising model to ensure coherent, well-coordinated support across Coordinated Care Advising and Major Advising, with attention to role clarity, staffing, professional development, and career pathways for advising staff. (CFRs 2.12, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)

3. Develop a structured plan for the assessment and continuous improvement of graduate education, encompassing a dedicated enrollment management plan, program evaluation, enhanced student support, and the specific needs of joint doctoral students with UC and other university partners. (CFRs 2.4, 2.13, 4.5)
4. Create a plan that identifies specific research areas for investment, aligns funding and resources with strategic goals, and supports the institution's research mission. (CFRs 2.8, 3.4, 4.8)
5. Strengthen communication and consultation practices to ensure that faculty, staff, and students feel genuinely informed and meaningfully included in decisions that affect them. (CFRs 1.7, 3.5, 4.8)
6. Engage in deliberate strategic planning for the campus's additional locations, prioritizing Imperial Valley and any emerging sites, with emphasis on enrollment management, infrastructure, academic staffing, and support services across all locations. (CFRs 1.2, 2.13, 3.4, 4.8)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that San Diego State University completed the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation institutional review process conducted under the 2023 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, San Diego State University 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.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of San Diego State University's governing board. A copy of this letter is also being sent to Chancellor Mildred García. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the San Diego State University 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 San Diego State University undertook in preparing for the 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,



A. Maria Toyoda
President

AMT/bgd

Cc: Mary Marcy, Commission Chair
Madhavi McCall, ALO
Jack Clarke, Jr. Board Chair
Mildred García, Chancellor, California State University System
Members of the TPR Accreditation Visit Team
Barbara Gross Davis, Vice President