

July 14, 2023

Dr. Aftab Omer
President
Meridian University
47 Sixth Street
Petaluma, CA 94952

Dear President Omer:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Meridian University (MerU) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 30, 2023. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to Meridian University April 26-28, 2023. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Meridian University prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's June 12, 2023 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague Melissa Schwartz, Vice President and Chief Academic Officer. 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 six years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2028 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2029
4. Schedule a Special Visit in spring 2026 to address all requirement in this letter
5. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by November 1, 2023 to address compliance with federal credit hour requirements given the reduction of a quarter from ten weeks to seven weeks

The Commission commends Meridian University in particular for the following:

1. The collaborative work and progress made in building the university's assessment infrastructure and processes.
2. A genuine institution-wide commitment to student success, as demonstrated by the investments in infrastructure and technology to improve efficiency.
3. Faculty dedication and attention to students to facilitate student learning and development.

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

1. Given the university's stated commitment to JEDI, enhance leadership and direction to ensure development of concrete plans, with timelines, metrics and resources to meet institutional goals regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion of faculty, staff, and students. (CFR 1.4)
2. Increase writing support, library services, and access to relevant collections to support learning for masters and doctoral students. (CFRs 2.2b, 2.3, 2.13, and 3.5)
3. Enhance responsiveness to student advising and degree planning requests to ensure students make timely degree progression, resulting in improved graduation rates. (CFR 2.12)
4. Prioritize continued development and implementation of assessment efforts with an emphasis on establishing clear and consistent student success metrics. (CFRs 2.4, 2.6, and 4.1)
5. Develop and implement a comprehensive evaluation process for full-time faculty, consistent with institutional mission. (CFR 3.2)
6. Provide professional development and training for faculty to enhance online pedagogical approaches, curriculum development, and effectiveness of advising. (CFR 3.3)
7. Seek board development opportunities to broaden areas of expertise and perspectives, strengthen board effectiveness and independence, assure attention to conflict of interest policies, and support efforts to achieve institutional goals regarding board diversity. (CFR 3.9)
8. Ensure compliance with federal credit hour requirements given the reduction of a quarter from ten weeks to seven weeks. (CFR 2.2)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that Meridian University addressed the three Core Commitments and successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, Meridian 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 Meridian University's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Meridian University'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 Meridian University 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamienne S. Studley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Jamienne S. Studley
President

JSS/so

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Immediate Past Chair
Tracy Poon Tambascia, Chair
Rob Gall, ALO
Susan Shaw, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Susan Opp, Vice President