

Interim/Progress Report Action Summary

Report Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interim Report (panel review) <input type="checkbox"/> Progress Report (staff review)	
Institution	St. Mary's College of California (SMCC)	
ALO	John Hofmann	
WSCUC Staff Liaison	Richard Osborn	
Review Call Date (Interim Report reviews only)	February 12, 2019	
Interim Report Panel	First Reader: Elna van Heerden Second Reader: Kathryn J. Tooredman	
Institutional Representatives (Interim Report reviews only)	Name	Title
	Margaret Kasimatis	Provost & VP for Academic Affairs
	Megan Mustain	Dean of the Core
	Shawny Anderson	Special Assistant to the Provost
	John Hofmann	ALO, Director of Assessment
Topics to be Covered as Required by Commission in Letter Dated March 6, 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion, adoption, and implementation of assessment plans for the core curriculum and core competencies 2. A faculty and contingent faculty plan 3. Full implementation of the program review timeline and revisions in the program review process to include a greater emphasis on assessment 	

Findings of the Committee (Interim Report)/Staff (Progress Report):

Commendations	<p>The panel commends SMCC for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accomplishing a lot of work on making progress on the recommendations in a short period of time with new leadership after 2 ½ years of inactivity due to the departure of key leaders. 2. Finding well qualified individuals with expertise to lead SMCC in accomplishing the recommendations. 3. Involving faculty in program review and the assessment of learning outcomes. 4. Working positively with the Labor Management Committee which now represents the unionized adjunct faculty in finding ways to involve this key group in faculty governance. 5. Assisting faculty to viewing assessment as part of the scholarship of learning rather than just focused on accountability and reporting data without analysis.
Recommendations	<p>The panel viewed the Commission recommendations as needing to be accomplished by the end of reaffirmation term of nine years which ends in February 2024. They had hoped for more progress but understand that for 2 ½ years a number of key leaders left SMCC which meant that the current leadership group only had a few months to make progress. Given this context, the panel determined that the newly adopted policies, procedures, and structures are “nascent,” to use the words of SMCC in the Interim Report, but show great promise of carrying out the recommendations. The appointment of a Director of Assessment was seen as a very positive development. The institution’s focus on providing private consultations and workshops for departments to be more effective in assessment will bolster implementation. The recommendation on developing an adjunct faculty plan was complicated by the unionization of adjunct faculty which meant some plans already developed had to be scuttled in honor of the negotiated contract. Efforts are underway at finding new ways to carry out the Commission’s recommendation on adjunct faculty. The panel concluded that the institution has made progress on the recommendations but now needs to make progress toward full implementation by the time the next institutional report is due in late 2022 or early 2023 for the Offsite Review. They determined</p>

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that it would be better to allow the institution the time to focus on the recommendations rather than preparing another report before the reaffirmation process begins.

Given this context, the panel recommends that:

1. SMCC continue full implementation of the program review policies including a focus on learning outcome performance and follow through on demonstrating changes being made as a result of the reviews. The panel was impressed that although some departments are not actively participating in the process, SMCC has developed not only a process of delinquency for failing to meet deadlines but departmental financial incentives for full participation.
2. The efforts to have a comprehensive process of assessment of institutional learning outcomes tied to decision-making, which seemed overly complex to the panel but are fully supported by SMCC as doable, continue to be an institutional priority.
3. SMCC continue progress toward co-curricular assessment being integrated into the overall assessment plan of SMCC.
4. SMCC develop contingency plans to replace individuals who might leave who are in key leadership roles in regard to assessment so that the long time delay experienced by the institution will no longer delay full implementation of the Commission recommendations.

Recommended Actions:

- Receive the Report; and
- Schedule a Special Visit in <term/year> to address concerns outlined in the Recommendations section
- Schedule an Interim Report due on _____ to address topics outlined in the Recommendations section
- Schedule a Progress Report due on _____ to address topics outlined in the Recommendations section
- Proceed to next scheduled interaction with WSCUC (see below)
(the institution is expected to address any Recommendations in the next scheduled interaction)
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Next Scheduled Interaction with WSCUC:

- Mid-Cycle Review in spring 2019
- Comprehensive Review: Offsite Review in spring 2023 and Accreditation Visit in fall 2023
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Commission Approval and Date (Interim Reports Only):

- Approved on March 14, 2019

- Not Approved on and referred back to Committee on _____

WSCUC Liaison Signature:

Richard C. Osborn

Date: March 19, 2019

Note: The effective date of this action is:

For Progress Reports – the date in the WSCUC Liaison signature box

For Interim Reports – the date of the Commission action

09/2016