

March 4, 2019

Mr. Marvin Malecha
President
NewSchool of Architecture and Design
1249 F Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear President Malecha:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning NewSchool of Architecture and Design (NSAD) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 22, 2019. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to NSAD October 23-26, 2018. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by NSAD prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's January 15, 2019 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues: Leonard Zegarski, ALO and Head of Architecture Programs, and Tiffany Rodriguez, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment. 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 spring 2024 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2024
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review to begin May 1, 2022
5. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by November 1, 2021 to address:
 - a. Finances
 - i. The 2018, 2019, and 2020 audited reports
 - ii. Budgets for 2019, 2020, and 2021
 - iii. Enrollment figures, by program and enrollment status (new, continuing students), for academic years 2018-19, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021
 - iv. Update on marketing initiatives
 - v. Update on any new degree programs since fall 2018
 - b. Assessment
 - i. One undergraduate degree program and one graduate degree program annual assessment report
 - ii. One example of the assessment of an Institutional Learning Outcome
 - c. Program Review

- i. Completed program reviews since January 2019
- ii. Schedule of future program reviews

The Commission commends NewSchool of Architecture and Design in particular for the following:

1. The focus on “Human-Centered” design, which offers clarity and priority to NSAD’s educational mission.
2. A positive National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) review in 2016, which indicates the high academic quality of the institution’s architecture offerings.
3. The restructuring of the Division of Student Affairs with its focus on addressing the essential needs of students to support their success.
4. A strong alignment of learning outcomes at the institutional, program, and course levels.
5. Improvement in the retention of students over the last five years.
6. An engaged and committed community of stakeholders that has led to continuous improvement of academic programs and to a strong relationship between the institution and San Diego’s architects and builders.
7. An increasingly evidence driven culture, with the greater availability and intentional use of data in decision-making.

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

1. Improve its financial sustainability by: (CFR 3.4)
 - a. Continuing to pursue the multiple tactics articulated in NewSchool’s Eight Tenants of Financial Sustainability to grow new enrollments while maintaining improved retention rates of continuing students.
 - b. Carefully examining the impact of new marketing initiatives on application volume, including: the new CRM system, improved relationships with community colleges and high schools, use of digital lead channels, strengthened international recruiting, and the new website.
 - c. Continuing to thoughtfully manage expenses to achieve alignment with anticipated revenues.
 - d. Exploring the market for new degree offerings and curricula that take advantage of NewSchool’s areas of expertise.
2. Continue and expand efforts to assess student learning – both curricular and co-curricular – in a sustainable way, by collecting and triangulating multiple measures (both direct and indirect) and forms of student learning assessment (both quantitative and qualitative). (CFRs 2.4, 2.6, 2.10, 2.11) The Commission was pleased to learn that the Assessment Leadership Council is strengthening the assessment culture.
3. Engage in the regular update and development of program review guidelines, and complete a full cycle of this new review process for every program. (CFR 2.7) The Commission was pleased to learn that external evaluations will be

incorporated into all program reviews, and specific action plans will result from each program review.

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



Jamiene S. Studley
President

JSS/ [bgd]

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair
Lenoard Zegarski, ALO
Yen Ha, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Barbara Gross Davis, Vice President