

June 30, 2017

Dr. Thomas Priselac
President
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
8700 Beverly Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Dear President Priselac:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (CSMC) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 21-23, 2017. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on February 27- March 1, 2017. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by CSMC prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR and the institution's May 30, 2017 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with your colleagues: Dr. Leon Fine, Vice Dean for Graduate Research Education, and Dr. William Parks, BSTM Program Director. Their 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 2022 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2023
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review in spring 2020
5. Request an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2020 to address
 - a. Strategic planning that aligns graduate programs with the institution's mission and purpose. As part of this plan, the institution must develop action plans that delineate goals, name those responsible for achieving those goals, timelines, benchmarks, and follow-up activity related to enrollments and projected budgets.
 - b. Academic leadership and organizational structures that further develop learning outcomes for courses, clinical components, and co-curricular activity and the continued use evidence obtained from learning assessment to increase student success and improve educational effectiveness;
 - c. Advancement of racial and ethnic diversity among faculty and students and the creation of a culture of inclusion that values cultural differences among faculty, staff, and students.

Commendations

The Commission commends Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in particular for the following:

1. The responsiveness and willingness of the Graduate office to provide requested information throughout the past and current review process;
2. A student-centered approach to education, and the individualized attention and caring attitude displayed to students;
3. The energy and excitement demonstrated by the students, faculty, staff, and administration regarding the translational mission of the institution;
4. The dedication shown by faculty to the students during their academic tenure and development as advanced researchers;
5. An entrepreneurial spirit of the leadership in creating an institution of higher learning connected to an excellent and rich research environment.

Recommendations

The Commission identifies the following issues for further development:

1. Communication of a clear strategic plan for the development and addition of academic programs at CSMC. It will be important that this plan is shared with board members, faculty, staff, students, and the community. The strategic plan should also address how the growth and addition of academic programs aligns with the mission of the institution and how they will be sustained over time (CFR 4.6, 4.7);
2. A clear governance structure for the Master's Programs and sufficient resources for those programs to support both faculty and staff (CFR 3.1, 3.5);
3. Continue to build a culture of inclusion, and diversity among faculty, students, staff, and administration (CFR 1.4);
4. Ongoing articulation of how assessment plans at program and institutional levels, and in co-curricular programs, are related and how those plans taken together are used to make informed decisions to adjust learning outcomes, strengthen the curriculum, and increase student achievement (CFR 2.10, 2.114.1, 4.3).

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that CSMC has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. Between this action and the time of the next review for reaffirmation, the institution is encouraged to continue its progress, particularly with respect to student learning and success.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center's governing board in one week. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center'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 Cedars-Sinai Medical Center 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,



Mary Ellen Petrisko
President

MEP/ gc

Cc: Bill Ladusaw, Commission Chair
Linda King, ALO
Mark Siegel, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Geoffrey Chase, Vice President