



WSCUC 2026 Special Visit Committee Meeting Summary Notes

Date: February 27, 2025

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Venue: MS Teams

Facilitators: Dr. Bradley Henson and Dr. Satoko Siegel

Members: Bradley Andresen, Stephanie Amonoo-Monney, Suresh Appavoo, Carolina Banuelos, Stephanie Bowlin, Rosana Bravo, Eugene Brown, Connie Callahan, Joshua Cameron, Denise Cornish, Sarah Farah-Franco, Leslie Hayes, Rodney Hicks, Cheng Yu Huo, Sil Han Jin, Josh McFarlen, Tina Meyer, Stephen O'Barr, Maria Pallavicini, Sunil Prabhu, Elizabeth Rega, Carl Todaro, Tim Wood

Recorder: Heather Simmons

Absent: Barbara Baker, Mirabelle Fernandes Paul, Hyma Gogineni, Mayra Hoskins, Rick Leeper, Liliana Martinez, Andre Matti, Mark McIntire, Joseph Park, Jonathan Perry, Laurice Sorensen

<u>Items</u>	<u>Discussion/Action</u>
Review Summary Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please send updates, edits or corrections to Heather Simmons
WSCUC Institutional Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DEI Strategy and WSCUC Accreditation<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ WesternU is committed to a strategic and smart approach to DEI while maintaining core values.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The university is following WSCUC accreditation requirements, though no clear guidance has been provided.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional guidance has been requested from WSCUC regarding DEI considerations.

- A consistent strategic approach in language related to DEI will be applied across all university sectors and self-study reports.
- A fresh perspective is being applied to self-study efforts.
- WesternU is the first institution undergoing WSCUC's new accreditation structure.
- **Report Presentation and Production Value**
 - Beyond substantive elements, there is a focus on refining the presentation structure.
 - The report should be polished and sophisticated.
 - Jonathan Daitch and his team will assist in improving the production quality.
- **Accreditation Review Process**
 - Review of Four Standards:
 - All aspects of the university are represented; attendees are encouraged to provide input.
 - Feedback Process:
 - Dr. Siegel will post an outline for review.
 - It will be open for comments until the next meeting.
 - Writing will continue, modifying only minor elements where necessary.
 - Commenters will be identified to allow for clarification.
 - Workplan and Timeline:
 - Sections will be populated and updates shared.
 - Writers should send sections to Drs. Henson and Siegel for integration.
 - The first draft will be in sections; the second draft will be a complete report.
 - March meeting will focus on section drafts and feedback.
 - MS Team Collaboration:
 - Drafts and outlines will be posted for feedback.
 - Comments should be provided by March 15.
 - Updated survey results will be posted before the March meeting.
 - Legal review will follow committee input to refine the drafts.
- **Section A – Introduction**
 - Content Overview:
 - Introduction follows WSCUC's format:
 - Institutional history, campus updates, significant changes since the 2023 site visit.
 - Committee feedback requested to confirm if any mission changes have occurred.
 - WSCUC KPIs dashboard and organizational updates included.
 - Degree Program Inventory:
 - Comprehensive assessment of reported and new degree programs, including dual degrees.
 - Verification with WSCUC to ensure all listed programs are in their records.

- Institutional modality changes and finance updates are in progress.
- Governance updates will be summarized.
- Strategic business planning efforts will be included.
- Federal mandates, ethics, and compliance elements will be incorporated.
- **Section B – 2023 Accreditation Recommendations**
 - Cultural and Governance Elements:
 - Compliance, Ethics, and Culture division is building a comprehensive culture.
 - Collaboration with Drs. Cameron and Appavoo on DEI language
 - Legal counsel reviewing DEI language for consistency.
 - Survey and Data Collection:
 - Shared governance assessment process is fully transparent.
 - Results will be used for decision-making and accreditation compliance.
 - HR department has collected operational data and is implementing new tracking software to improve efficiency.
 - Strategic plans are based on third-party consultant reports.
 - Climate Survey Initiative:
 - Comprehensive climate survey is being developed.
 - Outreach to 15 companies
 - Narrowed to Gallup, Rankin, RAND, NORC, and USC Center for Equity.
 - Results will support data-driven decision-making.
- **Shared Governance and Decision-Making Clarity**
 - Concerns:
 - Need to define decision-making capacity vs. input roles in governance.
 - Clarity of roles prevents misinterpretation of shared governance.
 - Governance Model Proposal:
 - Developing a governance matrix for role clarity.
 - Leadership and faculty will contribute to finalizing the structure.
 - Transparency and role definitions will improve shared governance perceptions.
 - Existing documents need alignment to avoid contradictions; consistency is critical.
- **Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs)**
 - Major component for monitoring student learning alignment with institutional mission.
 - Current ILOs are outdated; revision process is underway.
 - Broad faculty and staff engagement is necessary for buy-in.
 - Refreshing ILOs will be completed before the next WSCUC visit.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Steps and Action Items: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Steps and Action Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Siegel will post updated report outline for review. ○ Comments are due March 15 ○ Survey #2 results to be posted on MS Teams. ○ March 27 meeting will review section drafts. ○ Legal review to follow internal committee input.
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 27, 2025