



WSCUC 2026 Special Visit Committee Meeting Summary Notes

Date: April 24, 2025

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Venue: MS Teams

Facilitators: Dr. Bradley Henson and Dr. Satoko Siegel

Members: Stephanie Amonoo-Monney, Bradley Andresen, Suresh Appavoo, Stephanie Bowlin, Rosana Bravo, Eugene Brown, Joshua Cameron, Denise Cornish, Sarah Farah-Franco, Mirabelle Fernandes Paul, Leslie Hayes, Mayra Hoskins, Sil Han Jin, Rick Leeper, Josh McFarlen, Mark McIntire, Stephen O'Barr, Elizabeth Rega, Carl Todaro, Tim Wood

Recorder: Heather Simmons

Absent: Barbara Baker, Carolina Banuelos, Connie Callahan, Hyma Gogineni, Rodney Hicks, Liliana Martinez, Andre Matti, Tina Meyer, Joseph Park, Maria Pallavicini, Jonathan Perry, Sunil Prabhu, 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 Accreditation Resource Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSCUC ARC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The President, Dr. Bowlin, Dr. Henson and IRE attended WSCUC ARC. ○ The President, Dr. Bowlin and Dr. Henson met with WSCUC Liaison. ○ Dr. Henson attended ALO Session.
Section A: Introduction Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission and Vision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vision statement is expected to evolve over the summer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider whether to include a draft of the new vision or retain current statement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We retain current statement, then update it at the site-visit. • PhD-BPS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clarification needed: Is the program’s response included within the Action Plan document? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes. Program will address the recommendations on the Action Plan. • WesternU’s Values and Qualities of Educational Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suggest moving “Graduate Only” statement to a more prominent position earlier in the document. ○ Recommend clarifying between “Graduate Education” (MS/MA/PhD) and “Professional Graduate Education” (professional degrees), as both contribute to the educational experience. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decided on “Graduate Health Education” • Approach to WSCUC Reaffirmation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Note that representative selection may not always go through colleges; in some cases, governance groups (e.g., Academic Senate) recommend directly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Example cited: Appointment to the WSCUC Steering Committee via direct recommendation by the Academic Senate Chair, not through a college. • Agenda and Summary Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agenda and summary notes are currently behind and need to be updated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will be uploaded.
Section B: Standard 1 & Standard 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard 1: Defining Institutional Mission and Acting with Integrity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Humanism Assessment – including methods of measuring humanism and social impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community and Social Impact from Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement offers students valuable perspectives on real-world service needs • Importance of strengthening community service efforts, particularly in underserved areas • Examples and Initiatives Highlighted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SHPEP (Summer Health Professions Education Program)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Oregon Dream Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emphasis on how these programs contribute to community engagement and institutional mission
Next Steps and Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Steps and Action Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Section B: Standard 1 and 4 drafts have been posted for review and feedback. ○ Will post Section B – Standards 2 and 3 Drafts for review and feedback
Questions, Comments, Concerns?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Order Signed (April 23, 2025): Reforming Accreditation to Strengthen Higher Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Key Provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elimination of DEI Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accrediting agencies must remove DEI-related requirements; non-compliance may result in loss of recognition. ▪ Student-Centered Focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasizes intellectual diversity, reducing barriers to degree completion and encouraging innovative education models. ▪ Increased Accountability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary of Education empowered to suspend or terminate recognition of accreditors enforcing unlawful DEI policies.
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 29, 2025