



WSCUC 2026 Special Visit Committee Meeting Summary Notes

Date: September 30, 2024

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Venue: MS Teams

Facilitator: Satoko Siegel

Members: Barbara Baker, Stephanie Bowlin, Denise Cornish, Mirabelle Fernandes Paul, Hyma Gogineni, Bradley Henson, Cheng Yu Huo, Rick Leeper, Andre Matti, Josh McFarlen, Mark McIntire, Stephen O’Barr, Jonathan Perry, Sunil Prabhu, Elizabeth Rega, Tim Wood

Recorder: Heather Simmons

Absent: Suresh Appavoo, Connie Callahan, Liliana Martinez, Maria Pallavacini, Carl Todaro

| <u>Items</u> | <u>Discussion/Action</u> |
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| Welcome and Opening Remarks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Bradley Henson welcomed attendees, emphasizing the importance of this initiative and thanking everyone for their commitment. He highlighted that this diverse committee will collaboratively ensure content and voice reflect the university’s mission and evolving WSCUC standards. The committee’s work will be evidence-driven and aligned with university goals. |
| Introductions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All attendees introduced themselves. |
| Steering Committee Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Siegel provided a summary via PowerPoint: |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Steering Committee will guide the university through the WSCUC accreditation process, with Dr. Henson as ALO, Dr. Siegel as chair, Heather Simmons providing administrative support, and Carl Todaro handling technical assistance. ○ WesternU’s governance is represented through five branches, with plans to add more committee members. ○ A timeline for the accreditation process was presented. ○ Dr. Tamela Hawley, WesternU’s WSCUC Liaison, will conduct a 2.5-hour training session. |
| WesternU Accreditation Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Siegel provided background on WesternU’s accreditation history. |
| WSCUC 2023 Handbook and Standards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Siegel highlighted recent updates to WSCUC standards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plans to invite a WSCUC Liaison to provide additional training. ○ Reviewed slides on the new 2023 Handbook and recent updates to the accreditation process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emphasis on integrating DEI across all four standards as a significant recent change. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Question: Dr. Cornish inquired about DEI alignment given recent SCOTUS rulings. ● Response: Dr. Henson noted the need to frame the DEI narrative within the context of recent legal changes, ensuring compliance. ● Legal Compliance: Dr. Bowlin confirmed the university’s legal department has reviewed and aligned with the “Wisdom Plan” to ensure compliance. |
| Next Steps | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Committee members who haven’t yet completed the Doodle poll for training are encouraged to do so. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After orientation training, the committee will commence the self-study in alignment with the WSCUC worksheet. ● Proposed monthly meetings on the last Monday at 12 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some members noted conflicts with the ISPC Committee meetings, held on the fourth Monday. |
| Questions, Comments, and Concerns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion: The committee agreed on open dialogue, emphasizing the opportunity to tell a comprehensive story of WesternU’s progress since the 2018 site visit. |
| Next Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● October 31, 2024 |