



July 9, 2008

Phillip Pumerantz  
President  
Western University of Health Sciences  
309 E. Second Street  
Pomona, CA 91766-1854

*RE: Revised Commission Action Letter – EER visit dates corrected*

Dear President Pumerantz:

At its meeting on June 18-20, 2008, the Commission considered the report of the Capacity and Preparatory Review team that conducted the visit to the Western University of Health Sciences (WUHS) on March 19-21, 2008. The Commission also reviewed the Capacity and Preparatory Report submitted by the University prior to the visit. The members of the Commission panel appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you, Provost Ben Cohen, Chief Financial Officer Kevin Shaw, and Senior Vice President for Executive Affairs and Accreditation Liaison Officer Gary Gugelchuk. The information that you and your team provided and your observations about the review were very helpful.

The Commission was pleased by the engagement of the WUHS community in the Capacity and Preparatory Review process and the alignment of the review with the institutional Proposal. It noted the statement by the team that the institution's report was "thoughtful and helpful to the university in terms of pointing the direction for next steps."

The Commission endorsed the findings, commendations, and recommendations of the team and wishes to emphasize the importance of the key recommendations set forth at the end of the team report. These include: the importance of careful strategic planning during this period of rapid growth; the development of an effective university-wide program review process that encompasses assessment of faculty-established student learning outcomes and complements external review through specialized accrediting agencies; and, further efforts to promote communication with all constituencies and to develop an enhanced role for the faculty.

985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100  
Alameda, CA 94501  
PHONE: 510.748.9001  
FAX: 510.748.9797  
E-MAIL: [wascst@wascsenior.org](mailto:wascst@wascsenior.org)  
INTERNET: [www.wascweb.org](http://www.wascweb.org)

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The Commission also concurs with the recommendations of the team concerning WUHS' preparedness for the Educational Effectiveness visit and urges WUHS to follow through on work that has begun on adoption of core values and outcomes, publication of outcomes, and mapping of outcomes to curricula. By the time of the Educational Effectiveness Review, the Commission expects to see progress on the plans for growth, including the facilities and employment of faculty and staff for the planned new programs, and the careful alignment of plans with budgets; a fully implemented program review process, assessment plans for all programs, and findings about student learning from assessment work that has been undertaken; and, finally, meaningful progress on more effective communication among campus constituencies, with an appropriate role for the faculty in governance at the university level.

In particular, the Standards of Accreditation place special emphasis on the obligation of institutions to assess and improve student learning and to implement an effective program review process that focuses on the achievement of program (and institutional) learning outcomes. WUHS is still building the infrastructure for the assessment of student learning at the program and university levels. At the time of the Educational Effectiveness Review (EER), the team should find that the infrastructure for assessment (including program review) is much more fully developed, that assessment is underway across the university, and that results of assessment of student learning are available for review.

The Commission acted to:

1. Receive the Capacity and Preparatory Review Report and continue the accreditation of the Western University of Health Sciences.
2. Proceed with the scheduled Educational Effectiveness Review visit on *October 14-16, 2009*.
3. Request that the institution incorporate its response to the issues raised in the team report and this action letter into its Educational Effectiveness Review Report.

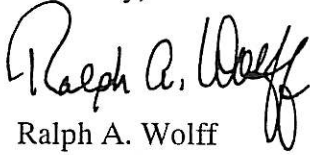
In addition, you are expected to prepare a brief analysis of how WUHS meets the expectations established in the recent changes to the Standards and Criteria for Review, which are effective July 1, 2008. These changes can be found on the WASC website at [www.wascsenior.org](http://www.wascsenior.org). You may include this analysis in an appendix to your EER report or incorporate it into the report.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the Chair of the WUHS Board of Trustees within one week. It is the Commission's expectation that the team report and this action letter will be widely disseminated throughout the institution to promote engagement and improvement, and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in the team report.

*Commission Action Letter, revised – page 3*  
*Western University of Health Sciences*  
*July 9, 2008*

Please contact me if you have any questions or comment about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph A. Wolff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" at the end.

Ralph A. Wolff  
President and Executive Director

RW/aa

cc: Sherwood Lingenfelter, Commission Chair  
Board Chair  
Gary Gugelchuk, ALO  
Members of the Team  
Teri Cannon