

July 8, 2020

Dr. David Vasquez-Levy  
President  
Pacific School of Religion  
1798 Scenic Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94709

Dear President Vasquez-Levy:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the Pacific School of Religion (PSR) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 26, 2020. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Special Visit to the Pacific School of Religion May 14-15, 2020. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by the Pacific School of Religion prior to the Special Visit and the institution's June 15, 2020 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you, and your colleagues Susan Abraham, ALO; Patrick O'Leary, CFO; and Teri Cannon, board chair. Your comments were very helpful in informing the Commission's deliberations. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's status with WSCUC.

### **Actions**

1. Receive the Special Visit team report that focused on: (1) fiscal stability; (2) repayment of funds borrowed from the endowment; (3) breakeven operating budget; and (4) operational contingency plans
2. Continue with the previously scheduled reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2022 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2022
3. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by May 1, 2021 to address accomplishments and progress on financial sustainability

The Commission commends the Pacific School of Religion in particular for the following:

1. Recruitment of an experienced, entrepreneurial, and disciplined senior leadership team.
2. Engaged and committed Board of Trustees with a wide range of expertise and backgrounds.
3. Persistence and flexibility in pursuing multiple planning options for the monetization of campus properties, as well as development of guiding principles and the use of a Property Task Force, which includes real estate experts as well as internal stakeholders, to inform decision making.
4. Development of a stackable curriculum that responds to the changing landscape of graduate theological education and lends coherence to the student experience and faculty preparation.
5. Ability and willingness of faculty to convert courses to distance education and work remotely in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the vision to use new technological tools to

nationalize PSR's reach.

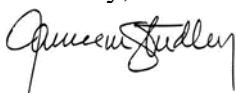
The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following issues:

1. Accelerate all strategic efforts planned or underway in order to achieve breakeven operations sooner than FY 2025 or FY 2026 as currently projected. (CFR 3.4)
2. Follow the plan to designate all proceeds from the sale of campus properties that are not needed to underwrite deficit operations as unrestricted endowment to help assure long-term financial sustainability. (CFR 3.4)
3. Finalize milestones to assess and modify strategic efforts as necessary due to changing environmental conditions and align Board reporting with progress towards achievement of said milestones. (CFRs 4.1, 4.3, 4.7)
4. Develop metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of the Ignite Institute as an alternative revenue stream and as a feeder program. (CFRs 4.1, 4.3, 4.7)
5. Establish data tracking protocols for migration of participants at the Ignite Institute to certificate and/or degree programs. (CFR 4.3)

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of the Pacific School of Religion's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Pacific School of Religion'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 the Pacific School of Religion 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,



Jamienne S. Studley  
President

JSS/mbg

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair  
Susan Abraham, ALO  
Teri Cannon, Board Chair  
Members of the Special Visit team  
Mark B. Goor, Vice President