

July 20, 2018

Mr. Bruce Ferguson  
President  
Otis College of Art and Design  
9045 Lincoln Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Dear President Ferguson:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Otis College of Art and Design (OCAD) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 27-29, 2018. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to Otis College of Art and Design April 17-20, 2018. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Otis College of Art and Design prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), and the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with your colleagues: Randall Lavender, Provost; and Debra Ballard, ALO). Your comments were very helpful in informing the Commission's deliberations. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with WSCUC.

### **Actions**

1. Receive the Accreditation Visit team report
2. Reaffirm accreditation for a period of eight years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2025 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2026
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review to begin May 1, 2022
5. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2021 to address the following issues
  - a. The strategic plan, including those plans related to board governance and fundraising, as well as any structural or programmatic changes to the institution
  - b. The schedule and outcomes of program reviews and any changes to the process of assessment of student learning
  - c. Institutional research and the integration of a college-wide data warehouse
  - d. An update on the current activity and success of the Extension Program

### **Commendations**

The Commission commends Otis College of Art and Design in particular for the following:

1. Attention to past WSCUC recommendations, especially the progress made on assessment and program review. It is clear that the institution has developed assessment practices, in use by staff, faculty and students alike, that are genuine to its unique culture and

pedagogy.

2. Commitment to diversity and inclusion with a continued focus on the recruitment of a diverse student body.
3. Initial attention to faculty development, including investment in faculty salaries and benefits at all levels.
4. Significant investment in facilities (student housing, studios, labs and making spaces), as well as institutional personnel, specifically in the area of student services and wellness.
5. Specific progress on institutional research.
6. The board of trustees' deep commitment to the college, and its continued support of capital projects and other fundraising activities.
7. An overall sense of pride and community among the faculty, staff and student body.

### **Recommendations**

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following issues by the time of the next review for reaffirmation of accreditation:

1. Further refine the college's student advising, counseling, and mentoring resources, including faculty assignments and communication strategies, to ensure the quality of the student experience and effectiveness of the process. (CFRs 1.7, 3.7)
2. Sustain and further refine assessment and program review practices, procedures and schedules, with attention to maintaining a culture of ongoing assessment across all divisions of the college. (CFRs 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7)
3. Recruit highly qualified faculty and staff who reflect the diversity of the student body. (CFRs 1.4, 3.2, 3.3)
4. While monitoring the transition from commuter to residential campus, carefully consider student health and wellness while making decisions about or maintaining curricular and co-curricular structures and expectations. Issues of scheduling, workload, workspaces, accommodations, technology, transportation, and work/life balance are important factors of student success. (CFRs 2.2a, 2.3)
5. Continue to support further development of institutional research capacity including disaggregating data for effective decision making (CFR 1.7, 3.5)
6. As Otis considers expanding its extension offerings (Continuing Education), ensure that these programs are designed with the mission of the institution in mind and appropriate curricular, pedagogical and resource oversight. (CFRs 1.2, 3.10)

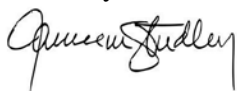
7. Continue the progress of the current and upcoming strategic plans, with a focus on multi-year, institutional planning. (CFRs 2.1,3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 4.6, and 4.7)
8. Build upon the success of the recent capital campaign and Board engagement with an attention to major gifts, alumni engagement and foundation support. (CFRs 3.4, 3.5)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that Otis College of Art and Design has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. Between this action and the time of the next review for reaffirmation, the institution is encouraged to continue its progress, particularly with respect to student learning and success.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of Otis College of Art and Design's governing board in one week. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Otis College of Art and Design'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 Otis College of Art and Design 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,



Jamiene S. Studley  
President

JSS/lw

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair  
Debra Ballard, ALO  
Gail Buchalter, Board Chair  
Members of the Accreditation Visit team  
Lori Williams, Vice President