

March 3, 2021

Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.) Ann Rondeau
President
Naval Postgraduate School
One University Circle
Monterey, CA 93943-5002

Dear President Rondeau:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 19, 2021. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation (TPR) of Accreditation Visit to Naval Postgraduate School October 7-9, 2020. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Naval Postgraduate School prior to the Accreditation Visit, and the institution's December 30, 2020 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Robert Dell, Provost and Academic Dean (acting); Scott Gartner, Provost (incoming); and Mary Sims, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs and Assessment, and 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 ten years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2030 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2030
4. Schedule a Special Visit in the spring of 2024 to focus on strategic planning and assessment of student learning.

The Commission commends Naval Postgraduate School in particular for the following:

1. Demonstrated passion and dedication to the NPS mission and to student academic achievement and professional development.
2. Comprehensive student support services offered by a network of dedicated and competent personnel from NPS and across agencies.
3. Effective faculty development that enhances teaching and learning, provides mentorship for junior faculty, and fosters opportunities for interdisciplinary research in a collegial environment.
4. A distinctive and forward-looking graduate education grounded in innovative

- and cutting-edge research that prepares graduates to solve complex real-world problems of national significance.
5. A comprehensive biennial curriculum improvement process that ensures relevant and dynamic academic programs responsive to the needs of the uniformed services and other stakeholders.

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

1. Develop common or related metrics and standards through an institution-wide approach to assessment with the goal of developing program learning outcomes and evaluating student learning outcomes across the organization. (CFR 2.6, 4.1, and 4.3)
2. Seek resources necessary to effectively accomplish its vision and mission, especially those that enable NPS to hire specialized and diverse faculty and staff and modernize facilities. (CFR 1.4, 3.1 and 3.5)
3. Continue inclusion and diversity efforts that are informed by best practices and assessment data on recruitment, onboarding, and retention of faculty, staff, and students. (CFR 3.1)
4. Publish a vision, mission, and strategic plan that is aligned with the Education for Seapower Strategy (E4S) with institutional goals and measures of performance and effectiveness to be used to allocate resources and guide future planning. (CFR 1.1)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that the Naval Postgraduate School addressed the three Core Commitments and successfully completed the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, the Naval Postgraduate School should strive for ongoing improvement with adherence to all Standards of Accreditation and their associated CFRs to foster a learning environment that continuously strives for educational excellence and operational effectiveness.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of the Naval Postgraduate School's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Naval Postgraduate School'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 Naval Postgraduate School undertook in preparing for the 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/mbg

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair
Mary Sims, ALO
Maren Leed, Board of Directors, Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Mark B. Goor, Vice President