

February 27, 2025

Mr. Parviz Shams  
Chief Executive Officer  
Southern California Institute of Technology  
525 North Muller Street  
Anaheim, CA 92801

Dear Mr. Parviz:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Southern California Institute of Technology (SCIT) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 14, 2025. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 to Southern California Institute of Technology October 23 -25, 2024 using the 2023 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Southern California Institute of Technology prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 and the institution's December 10, 2024 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague Arian Shams, President. 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 Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 team report
2. Schedule a Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 in spring 2026

### **Commendations**

The Commission commends the institution for:

1. A shared and pervasive commitment and passion for a mission of hands-on education that combines technical skills, discipline and professionalism for industry-relevant student learning, and career preparation.
2. Significant investments in facilities and innovative equipment to support hands-on education and promote an environment of curiosity and learning.
3. Prioritizing academic quality and student success over enrollment growth while maintaining healthy finances.
4. Seriousness of intent in learning from WSCUC standards and processes to strengthen the institution.

### **Areas for Development**

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following areas for development:

### Standard 1: Defining Institutional Purposes and Ensuring Educational Objectives

The Commission found that Southern California Institute of Technology demonstrated evidence of compliance with Standard 1 at a level sufficient for Candidacy. In order to demonstrate compliance at a level sufficient for Initial Accreditation, the following CFRs require additional attention and development:

- CFRs 1.2, 1.4, 1.7: Strengthen systematic assessment, regular communication, and institutionalized processes to keep constituencies informed about important institutional issues and to help identify and address the needs of a multi-faceted community.

### Standard 2: Achieving Educational Objectives through Core Functions

The Commission found that Southern California Institute of Technology demonstrated evidence of compliance with Standard 2 at a level sufficient for Candidacy. In order to demonstrate compliance at a level sufficient for Initial Accreditation, the following CFRs require additional attention and development:

- CFRs 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.9: Develop the faculty to deepen their capacity and engagement in assessment, program review, and academic governance, congruent with the institution's mission and strategic direction.

### Standard 3: Developing and Applying Resources and Organizational Structures to Ensure Quality and Sustainability

The Commission found that Southern California Institute of Technology had not demonstrated evidence of compliance with Standard 3 at a level sufficient for Candidacy. In order to demonstrate compliance at a level sufficient for Initial Accreditation, the following CFRs require additional attention and development:

- CFR 3.3: Foster a culture of open communication and regular professional development for faculty and staff.
- CFR 3.4: Develop, formalize, and implement a strategic plan to clarify and communicate the institution's direction and goals, and to align multi-year plant, equipment, and personnel investments with academic programs, enrollment strategies, and financial targets. Model multi-year financial scenarios that project both revenues and expenses consistent with the strategic plan.
- CFR 3.8: Develop the Board of Trustees' composition and capacity to ensure appropriate leadership, succession planning, strategic direction, and long-term effectiveness.
- CFRs 3.9, 3.11: Develop the leadership team and formalize decision-making structures to reduce dependence on individuals for better clarity, transparency, succession planning, and long-term effectiveness.

Standard 4: Creating an Organization Committed to Quality Assurance, Institutional Learning, and Improvement

The Commission found that Southern California Institute of Technology had not demonstrated evidence of compliance with Standard 4 at a level sufficient for Candidacy. In order to demonstrate compliance at a level sufficient for Initial Accreditation, the following CFRs require additional attention and development:

- CFRs 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 4.8: Implement and integrate data-based quality assurance and review processes across all academic programs and co-curricular services to inform decision-making and continuous improvement.

In keeping with WSCUC review protocols, the required subsequent review and Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 will focus primarily on those issues identified under each Standard (above) deemed to require additional development. (Please also reference the team report for additional context for the Commission's findings.) In keeping with WSCUC values, Southern California Institute of Technology 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 Southern California Institute of Technology's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be 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.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that Southern California Institute of Technology 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,



Christopher N. Oberg, PhD  
Interim President

CNO/lp

Cc: Tracy Poon Tambascia, Commission Chair  
Arian Shams, ALO  
Lissa Wayne, Board Chair  
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 team  
Linda Petersen, Vice President