

July 9, 2026

Mr. Arian Shams  
President  
Southern California Institute of Technology  
525 North Muller Street  
Anaheim, CA 92801

Dear President Shams:

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 June 26, 2026. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 to Southern California Institute of Technology March 25-27, 2026 using 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 2 and the institution's April 30, 2026 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague Parviz Shams, CEO. 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 Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 Team Report
2. Grant Candidacy for a period of five years
3. Schedule a Seeking Accreditation Visit 3 in spring 2028.

### **Commendations**

The Commission commends the institution for:

1. Demonstrating a strong shared sense of purpose with genuine and pervasive commitment to hands-on learning and career preparation and support.
2. A coherent vision for offering technical programs aligned with areas of current and anticipated industry demand.
3. Deep commitment of faculty and staff to student learning and success.
4. Providing a physical campus and labs designed to stimulate curiosity and support technical learning.
5. Establishing the Governance Advisory Council (GAC), which serves as a voice for faculty on academic matters and provides leadership in the areas of faculty development and support.

## **Areas for Development**

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

### Standard 1: Defining Institutional Mission and Acting with Integrity

The Commission found that Southern California Institute of Technology demonstrated evidence of compliance with Standard 1 at a level sufficient for Initial Accreditation.

The following CFRs under this Standard require additional attention for improvement:

- CFR 1.2: Strengthen institutional assessment and use of results to support the needs of students in all degree levels and modalities.
- CFR 1.4: Track students and employee complaints and grievances in compliance with the WSCUC Complaints and Third-Party Comments Policy.

### Standard 2: Achieving Educational Objectives and Student Success

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:

- CFR 2.1: Ensure that all courses contain sufficient direct instructional hours to comply with the institution's credit hour policy and WSCUC's Credit Hour Policy
- CFR 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7: Demonstrate faculty-driven assessment and program review across all academic programs including: a) well-developed curriculum maps, b) learning outcomes assessment plans, c) regular and systematized data collection and analysis, and d) evidence of actions taken as a result of the evaluation of data.
- CFR 2.9: Demonstrate evidence that students consistently achieve stated learning outcomes and standards of performance in degree programs.
- CFR 2.14: Ensure assessment of the effectiveness of all co-curricular programs and services.

### Standard 3: Assuring Resources and Organizational Structures

The Commission found that Southern California Institute of Technology 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 3.1: Evaluate staffing needs and act to ensure that SCIT has staff and administrators sufficient in scale, professional qualifications, background, and alignment with areas of responsibilities to achieve the institution's educational

and student success objectives, to propose and oversee policy, and to ensure the integrity of its degree programs, student support, co-curricular programs and administrative processes.

- CFR 3.2: Examine the extent to which climate supports faculty, staff and administrators, and the extent to which workload expectations and actual workloads align with institutional mission and priorities; and act on the findings.
- CFR 3.3: Establish and implement a mechanism for identifying professional development needs of staff and administrators and for evaluating and funding requests in alignment with job responsibilities, department objectives and institutional priorities.
- CFR 3.4: Integrate the strategic plan into the institution's operations, multi-year financial models and collaborative annual budget development and monitoring processes with input from academic and non-academic functional areas.
- CFR 3.7: Continue to develop the board of trustees to ensure board integrity, independence and reasonable protection against conflict of interest, consistent with best practices and WSCUC's Governing Board Policy.
- CFR 3.9: Accelerate the formation and development of senior academic and administrative leadership to ensure and sustain academic quality, educational effectiveness, and achievement of strategic goals.
- CFR 3.10: Demonstrate that data are regularly collected, disseminated, analyzed, and applied to decision-making.
- CFR 3.11: Clarify and communicate coherent and transparent organizational structures and decision-making processes, including the role of the Cabinet, and mechanisms for staff input.

#### Standard 4: Creating an Institution Committed to Quality Assurance and Improvement

The Commission found that Southern California Institute of Technology 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:

- CFR 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6: Enhance institutional research capacity to support quality assurance and decision-making; and demonstrate institutional improvement based on the results of inquiry, evidence, and evaluation.
- CFR 4.8: Monitor progress against the strategic plan and engage in corresponding reflection to review, evaluate and adjust institutional direction and initiatives if and as appropriate based on internal and external evidence.

In keeping with WSCUC review protocols, the required subsequent review and Seeking Accreditation Visit 3 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 taking this action, the Commission confirmed that Southern California Institute of Technology has met all of the WSCUC Standards at a level sufficient to grant Candidacy under the 2023 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission has scheduled the Seeking Accreditation Visit 3 in spring 2028.

Institutions granted the status of Candidate for Accreditation must use the following statement if they wish to describe that status publicly:

*Southern California Institute of Technology has been recognized as a Candidate for Accreditation by WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 1080 Marina Village Parkway, Suite 500, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001. This status is a preliminary affiliation with the Commission awarded for a maximum period of five years. Candidacy is an indication that the institution is progressing toward Accreditation. Candidacy is not Accreditation and does not ensure eventual Accreditation.*

Federal law requires that the WSCUC address and phone number appear in your catalog.

Institutions granted Candidacy are required to:

1. Submit a Teach-Out Plan. As a result of federal regulations effective July 1, 2020, an institution granted Candidacy by the Commission must submit to WSCUC a plan that would be implemented if the institution were to close. A teach-out plan identifies opportunities for the students of a closing institution to complete their program at other institutions offering the same or similar degree programs, certificates or curricula leading to professional licensure, regardless of students' academic progress at the time of closure. The WSCUC Teach-Out Plans and Agreements Policy and associated Guide provide information on what to include in a teach-out plan. The teach-out plan must be submitted to WSCUC by February 1, 2027.
2. Submit an Annual Report in the format required by the Commission.
3. Keep the Commission informed of any significant changes or developments. Any proposed new degree programs, off-campus locations, online offerings, and/or changes in governance or ownership require review and approval through the Substantive Change process.
4. Pay Annual Membership Dues prorated from the date of this action. An Annual Dues statement will be sent under separate cover.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Maria Toyoda', with a stylized, flowing script.

A. Maria Toyoda  
President

AMT/so

Cc: Mary Marcy, Commission Chair  
Arian Shams, ALO  
Lissa Wayne, Board Chair  
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 team  
Susan Opp, Vice President