

Dear USF Faculty and Staff,

Thanks to all of you for participating in the campus visit last week by the review team for USF's reaccreditation by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). The visit went extremely well, and as those of you who were able to attend the exit session heard, the preliminary results were strong.

There were no surprises in the draft commendations and recommendations that the team verbally presented at the end of their visit. Several of the team's "lines of inquiry" submitted before they arrived on campus were about mission alignment. In the team's exit report, answers to those questions were summarized in a single commendation about how, across the board, USF is aligning programs, policies, and initiatives according to our Jesuit mission and Catholic identity. The team commended us for candor and clarity about our opportunities and challenges, and praised the Board of Trustees' alignment with senior leadership.

Overall, the team's commendations are strong and clear and cover the heart of our operation. Their several recommendations are all welcome and very helpful; they will give further credibility and weight to the initiatives that we have launched and will launch from Magis, Campus Climate, and the four Transformative Directions I spoke about at the University Convocation.

My thanks to the Provost Office's staff led by Senior Vice Provost Shirley McGuire for the attentive and thorough work in preparing for the review team's visit. Not only were logistics managed exceptionally well, but the planning and organization resulted in productive and frank conversations with groups from across campus.

Thank you to all who participated.

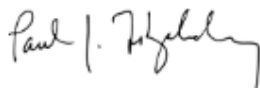
Next Steps

In about four weeks, we will receive the visiting team's draft written report. We then have the opportunity to correct any errors of fact (if, for example, they misname something or cite a statistic incorrectly). After that, we will wait until February, when the WASC commissioners meet and act on the many site visits this year. At that point we will learn the final outcome of this process, but given the tenor of the exit sessions, I expect positive results.

We will continue to update the [WSCUC reaccreditation website](#) on myUSF with communications, reports, and action plans. Please watch for the review team's final written report, which will be the official list of the review team's recommendations and commendations.

Please also note that a VP forum has been scheduled on Thursday, Nov. 15 from 3:30–5 p.m. in McLaren with Senior Vice Provost Shirley McGuire and our accreditation liaison officer, Director Deborah Panter. This session will allow for questions and conversation around the visiting team's report. A separate email with details will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,



Paul J. Fitzgerald, S.J.
President