

April 4, 2022

Re: United States University Institutional Response to the Spring 2022 WSCUC Accreditation Site Visit.

To: Phillip Doolittle, Chair, Executive Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer, University of Massachusetts Global (UMass Global)

CC: Barbara Gross Davis, Vice President; Marcy Ramsey, Visit Process Manager

From: Steven Stargardter, President and ALO

United States University (USU) thanks the Commission for the opportunity to participate in this review of USU reaffirmation of accreditation. As a result of the process the university obtained clarity relative to the students we serve and was able to affirm our commitment to the university's students and faculty through ongoing alignment with our Mission. The university also thanks the team for its thoughtful, thorough, and engaging review of the university and for providing detailed and actionable recommendations.

The university began implementing the team's recommendations immediately after the visit. Specifically, USU has:

1. Sought and obtained feedback across university constituents regarding the university's next strategic plan. Across all areas of the university, respondents discussed the importance of focusing the university on financially viable programs.
2. Embedded financial analyses that disaggregate data by student population and type of program into the current strategic plan and budgeting processes.
3. Revised processes to ensure issues with repeat financial aid findings are ameliorated.
4. Explored options for additional co-curricular initiatives with focus on mental health and career support. A position to support these initiatives will be proposed as part of the next fiscal year's budget.
5. Initiated a program review for the Family Nurse Practitioner program utilizing the data the processes discussed in the Institutional Report
6. Begun work to develop an online doctoral community by creating a website that contains information on research methods and scholarship for doctoral students. We will continue our efforts to develop a strong doctoral community.

Since the visit, USU launched its first doctoral program, the Doctor of Nursing Practice. As of April 4th of 2022, and within 24 hours of opening the application, USU received 10 inquiries, which led to 5 applications. Moreover, USU also received permission from the WSCUC to develop a proposal for the Doctor of Business Administration. This proposal received feedback and support from the Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees and will be submitted by April 15 to the WSCUC Substantive Change Committee.

We look forward to meeting with the Commission and discussing the value of the visit process and the university's continued progress.

Sincerely,
Steve Stargardter

Steven Stargardter, JD, PhD
President and Academic Liaison Officer