WASC | Senior College and University Commission

July 9, 2026

Dr. Mikhail Brodsky
President
Lincoln University
401-15th Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear President Brodsky:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Lincoln University (LincolnU) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 26, 2026. At that meeting, the Commission acted to impose Probation on Lincoln University. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to Lincoln University March 25-27, 2026, using the 2023 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Lincoln University prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's June 6, 2026 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues, Annique Dalley Asghedom, Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees; Themistoclis Pantos, Provost; Harneev Dhillon, Acting CFO; Alexander Anokhin, Director of Accreditation Compliance and Quality Assurance; and Reenu Shrestha, Assistant to the President 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. Impose Probation
3. Schedule a Special Visit in spring 2027 to address:
    a. financial controls and realistic plans for fiscal sustainability, including an updated three-year financial plan. (CFRs 3.4 and 3.5)
    b. development of a comprehensive enrollment management plan. (CFRs 3.4 and 3.5)
    c. consistent oversight, planning, and integrity of the governing board. (CFRs 3.7, 3.8, and WSCUC Governing Board Policy)
4. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by September 30, 2026 that includes
    a. evidence of a financial plan that aligns with the institution's strategic objectives.
    b. comparative FY 2026 and 2025 year-end financial statements including an income statement, a balance sheet, and a cash flow statement, all

    compared to FY2025 showing improvement in the institution's financial position and progress toward financial sustainability,
    c. a fall 2026 enrollment report and analysis of actual to projected enrollment, and
    d. a budget for FY2027. (CFRs 3.4 and 3.5)
5. Submit an audited financial statement for FY2026 by October 31, 2026. (CFR 3.5)
6. Submit a Teach-Out Plan by September 30, 2026.

Probation

Probation reflects the Commission's finding that an institution has serious issues of noncompliance with WSCUC Standards of Accreditation. While on Probation, any new site or degree program initiated by the institution is regarded as a substantive change (see the Substantive Change Manual for details). The accredited status of the institution continues during the Probation period.

When the Commission finds that an institution fails to meet one or more of the Standards of Accreditation, it is required to notify the institution of the deficiencies and establish a time period within which the deficiencies must be corrected. Under the Commission's policies the timeframe may not exceed two years. If an institution has not remedied the deficiencies at the conclusion of this sanction period, the Commission is required to withdraw the institution's accreditation or extend the timeframe for good cause shown. The initial extension may not exceed two years.

An institution under sanction must address the areas cited by the Commission expeditiously, with seriousness and the full attention of the institution's leadership. It is the responsibility of the institution to demonstrate to the Commission that it has understood the issues raised in this letter, responded to them satisfactorily, and has made the necessary changes to come into compliance with Standard 3. It is the responsibility of the Commission to determine whether the institution has made the necessary corrections and has come into compliance with Standard 3.

Non-Compliance with Standards: Deficiencies to be Addressed

1. Standard 3, CFR 3.5: Lincoln University is not financially sustainable as documented through the latest audit report which includes a qualified opinion. The university has experienced significant operating losses over the last two years. Expenses continue to exceed revenues, including revenue from tuition and fees. For FY25, the University reported total revenue of $4,680,668 and expenses of $6,145,382, resulting in an operating margin of minus 31.4%. Although a three-year projection calls for a 7% growth in enrollment, there is minimal evidence of a sustainable plan to mitigate financial risks. For the past two cycles, the university received a qualified independent audit that included a going concern opinion. The latest independent audit reported an operating loss in FY2025, reduced liquidity, and operating cash outflows for the fiscal year ended

July 31, 2025. The institution projects positive revenues based upon the hope of enrollment increases in fall 2026. However, if historic trends continue, enrollments will continue to decline. The university must show evidence that its financial position is improving and that it is addressing its short- and long-term fiscal sustainability.

2. Standard 3, CFR 3.4: Lincoln University has not demonstrated compliance with this Standard. Resource planning does not include realistic budgeting using evidence-based strategic enrollment management. Lincoln University's fiscal projections include three levels of prediction, however the assumptions behind the predictions are not realistic given past enrollment patterns and where enrollment currently stands for fall 2026. The projections rely upon 140 online students enrolling for the fall term with 100 online students enrolling by late August. Historically, the university has not yet seen online enrollment numbers at this level. A positive cash flow projection of $800,000 is based on enrolling 1,000 students overall, which the university admits is aspirational. The institution's only plan to mitigate losses in case these projections are not met is to continue to limit expenses, which are currently already at a minimum. In addition, the university has not provided an honest assessment of its financial position. For example, the university has indicated that it has zero debt, but that is not case since the audit describes a loan that the university currently holds. While Lincoln University's financial planning framework is indicative of strategic thinking, it has not demonstrated that it can overcome the aforementioned challenges to chart a realistic path for fiscal sustainability as required by the Standard. The institution must develop and follow a credible plan for long-term viability and provide concrete evidence of financial improvement.

Areas for Development

In preparation for the Special Visit, the Commission also requires the institution to respond to the following areas for development:

1. Develop and implement a comprehensive 3-year enrollment management plan, that engages all institutional stakeholders, using data-informed assumptions for fiscal planning. (CFRs 3.4, 3.10)
2. Ensure key institutional leaders, including the President, Provost, and Chief Financial Officer, are consistently, formally and cohesively involved in the execution, resource allocation, monitoring, and institutionalization of the strategic plan. (CFRs 3.9, 3.11)
3. Effectively engage the university community in the execution, monitoring, and prioritizing of the institution's strategic plan. (CFR 4.8)
4. Provide all senior leaders with adequate, ongoing, role-specific, professional development to assist them in more capably managing their responsibilities. (CFRs 3.3, 3.9)

Maximum Timeframe

The deficiencies identified in this letter must be corrected within the maximum timeframe which extends until June 30, 2028, unless extended by the Commission for good cause. The Commission may take further action if warranted before the end of that timeframe.

Next Steps

The Commission requires a meeting between the WSCUC staff and representatives of Lincoln University, including the Chief Executive Officer, representatives of the governing board, and senior faculty leadership, within 90 days from the date of this letter. The purposes of the meeting are to discuss the reasons for the Commission's findings and bases for decision, to review the actions taken as of the date of the meeting, and to discuss the institution's plans for responding to this Commission action. WSCUC will contact Lincoln University's ALO to make arrangements for this meeting.

Commission policy requires that in the case of a sanction, a public statement will be prepared in consultation with the institution acknowledging the institution's status. The Commission reserves the right to make the final determination of the nature and content of the public statement. The institution must post the statement within seven business days, along with a copy of the Commission letter, in a readily accessible location on the institution's website and accompanying every reference to WSCUC accreditation. The institution must also provide evidence to WSCUC that the public statement has been posted.

Enclosed is a copy of a sample public statement, which Lincoln University may use as it stands. If you wish to propose revisions to the sample, your proposed changes must be forwarded by email to Vice President Hawley within 24 hours of receipt of this letter. In addition, any reference to WSCUC accreditation on the website and in public statements must be accompanied by the words "Currently on Probation."

Submit a Teach-Out Plan

An institution placed on Probation by the Commission must submit to WSCUC a teach-out 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.[1]

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[1] 34 Code of Federal Regulations § 668.43(a) (19) states: "Information that the institution must make readily available to enrolled and prospective students under this subpart includes. . .[i]f the institution is required to maintain a teach-out plan by its accrediting agency, notice that the institution is required to maintain such teach-

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of Lincoln University's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Lincoln University 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 within one business day of the date of this letter. 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 institution's preparation and support for this Accreditation Visit. 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. Maria Toyoda
President

AMT/thh

Cc: Mary Marcy, Commission Chair
Reenu Shrestha, ALO
Annique Dalley Asghedom, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit Team
Tamela Hawley, Vice President

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out plan and the reason that the accrediting agency required such plan under § 602.24(c)(1). . ."

WASC Senior College and University Commission Statement on the Status of Lincoln University

On June 26, 2026 the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) voted to impose Probation on Lincoln University (LincolnU).

Probation reflects the Commission's finding that an institution has significant issues of noncompliance with one or more of the WSCUC Standards of Accreditation. The Commission has determined that Lincoln University is not in compliance with WSCUC Standard 3. When the Commission finds that an institution fails to meet one or more of the Standards of Accreditation, it is required to notify the institution of these findings and give the institution a period of time to correct the deficiencies. Under the Commission's policies the timeframe may not exceed two years. It is the responsibility of the Commission to determine, at the end of the sanction period, whether the institution has made the necessary corrections and has come into compliance with Commission Standards.

The accredited status of Lincoln University continues during the Probation period and students' status within the college is not affected by this sanction.

The Commission's decision to impose Probation on Lincoln University is subject to the terms and conditions contained in the Commission Action Letter dated July 9, 2026. This document is available on the WSCUC website. Anyone who has questions about Lincoln University's accreditation status should contact Jeremy Houska, Accreditation Liaison Officer at Lincoln University.