

July 9, 2026

Mr. Charles Hirschhorn
President
Otis College of Art and Design
9045 Lincoln Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Dear President Hirschhorn:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Otis College of Art and Design (Otis) 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 Accreditation Visit to Otis March 10-13, 2026, using the 2023 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Otis College of Art and Design prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's May 5, 2026, response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Joanne Mitchell, Associate Provost for Educational Effectiveness and Enrollment Management; Colette Veasey-Cullors, Provost; Ankush Mahindra, Vice President, Finance & Administration; Yoi Tanaka, VP of Admissions and Financial Aid; and Dwayne Moser, Dean of Academic Affairs.

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. Reaffirm accreditation for a period of eight years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2033 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2034
4. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by November 1, 2028, to address all the areas for development included in this letter

Commendations

The Commission commends the institution for:

1. Demonstrating strong institutional coherence, anchored by a clear and consistent understanding of its mission and identity, with ARC — Admissions, Retention, and Careers — serving as a unifying thread across all areas of its work.

2. Applying design thinking principles throughout its work, evident in the creativity of its website, the uniqueness of its Institutional Learning Outcomes, and innovative classroom design.
3. Maintaining an intentional focus on career preparation, reflected in robust alumni and community engagement and exceptional career placement outcomes — 96% placement rate.
4. Demonstrating exceptional institutional stewardship by strengthening financial resilience, infrastructure planning, and risk management — leveraging both external expertise and internal fundraising during a period of enrollment decline.
5. Cultivating collaborative, mission-driven leadership across both administration and the Board of Trustees.
6. Establishing an effective Staff Council that meaningfully contributes to and enriches institutional decision-making.

Areas for Development

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

1. Develop and implement a comprehensive, multi-year enrollment management plan that reflects current best practices and addresses the institution's specific enrollment challenges and goals. (CFRs 3.4, 3.5)
2. Provide evidence of direct assessment of student work that confirms the practice is occurring in a systematic, sustained, and documented manner. (CFRs 2.3, 2.7, 2.9)
3. Leverage existing institutional data collection to share insights and drive analysis, decision-making, planning, monitoring, and accountability. (CFRs 3.10, 4.5)
4. Integrate data collection and analysis efforts across divisions so that information flows freely, supports collaboration, and informs strategy at every level. (CFRs 3.10, 4.5)
5. Clarify and codify faculty governance roles and responsibilities in a manner appropriate to the institution's size and scope, developed through a collaborative process that draws on both faculty expertise and institutional perspective. (CFR 2.6)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that Otis College of Art and Design successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2023 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, Otis College of Art and Design 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 Otis College of Art and Design's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Otis

College of Art and Design 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. 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 extensive work that Otis College of Art and Design 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/bgd

Cc: Mary Marcy, Commission Chair
Joanne Mitchell, ALO
Mei-Lee Ney, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit Team
Barbara Gross Davis, Vice President