Wichita State University - KS

HLC ID 1304

OPEN PATHWAY: Mid-Cycle Review   Review Date: 6/14/2021

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Mid-Cycle Reviews include:

- The Year 4 Review in the Open and Standard Pathways
- The Biennial Review for Applying institutions

Reaffirmation Reviews include:

- The Year 10 Review in the Open and Standard Pathways
- The Review for Initial Candidacy for Applying institutions
- The Review for Initial Accreditation for Applying institutions
- The Year 4 Review for Standard Pathway institutions that are in their first accreditation cycle after attaining initial accreditation

- Mid-Cycle Review

- COVID-19 Response Form

Wichita State University (WSU) is governed by the Kansas Board of Regents. Through the eight degree-granting colleges, the institution offers bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees as well as certificate programs. WSU is the most racially and ethnically diverse university in Kansas and enrolled 15,500 students in 2020. The institution has been successful in recruiting and retaining low-income students; approximately 45% of all students are first generation students. The institution employs nearly 4,500 people, including 600 full time faculty of which 86% have attained the highest degree in their field.

The institution's vision "to be one of the nation's most innovative public research universities, known for providing impactful student experiences for the people and the communities we serve" is the focus of many of its curricular and cocurricular programs. Its position in the state's largest urban area serves it well in acting as a major driver of economic development. The Innovation Campus, a collaboration of university, public, and private partners, work together to promote WSU's research and academic mission to be an essential educational, cultural, and economic driver for Kansas and the public good.

WSU responded the COVID challenge by adjusting class schedules, student support services, and teaching methodologies. In keeping with their mission, they also provided personal protective equipment to the surrounding community and conducted COVID-19 testing for South-Central Kansas through their molecular diagnostic lab.

With a 5.48% reduction in fees, likely from decreased enrollments due to COVID, the institution has processes in place to monitor enrollments and ascertain what consequences this will have in the coming year, perhaps beyond the three percent reduction in revenues in the current budget plan.

WSU has sustained momentum and moved forward in the midst of multiple administrative changes. The robust planning process with enviro ˝ch˝d ˝

The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.

The institution's mission is articulated publicly and operationalized throughout the institution.

1. The mission was developed through a process suited to the context of the institution.
2. The mission and related statements are current and reference the institution's emphasis on the various aspects of its mission, such as instruction, scholarship, research, application of research, creative works, clinical service, public service, economic development and religious or cultural purpose.
3. The mission and related statements identify the nature, scope and intended constituents of the higher education offerings and services the institution provides.
4. The institution's academic offerings, student support services and enrollment profile are consistent with its stated mission.
5. The institution clearly articulates its mission through public information, such as statements of purpose, vision, values, goals, plans or institutional priorities.

Met

Wichita State University's mission is to be an essential educational, cultural, and economic driver for Kansas and the greater public good. The development of the mission statement reflects the institutional context as shown by the inclusion of campus and community stakeholders and the focus on serving Kansas and the public good. As noted in the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) meeting minutes the mission statement was approved in 2013 and has been reviewed recently.
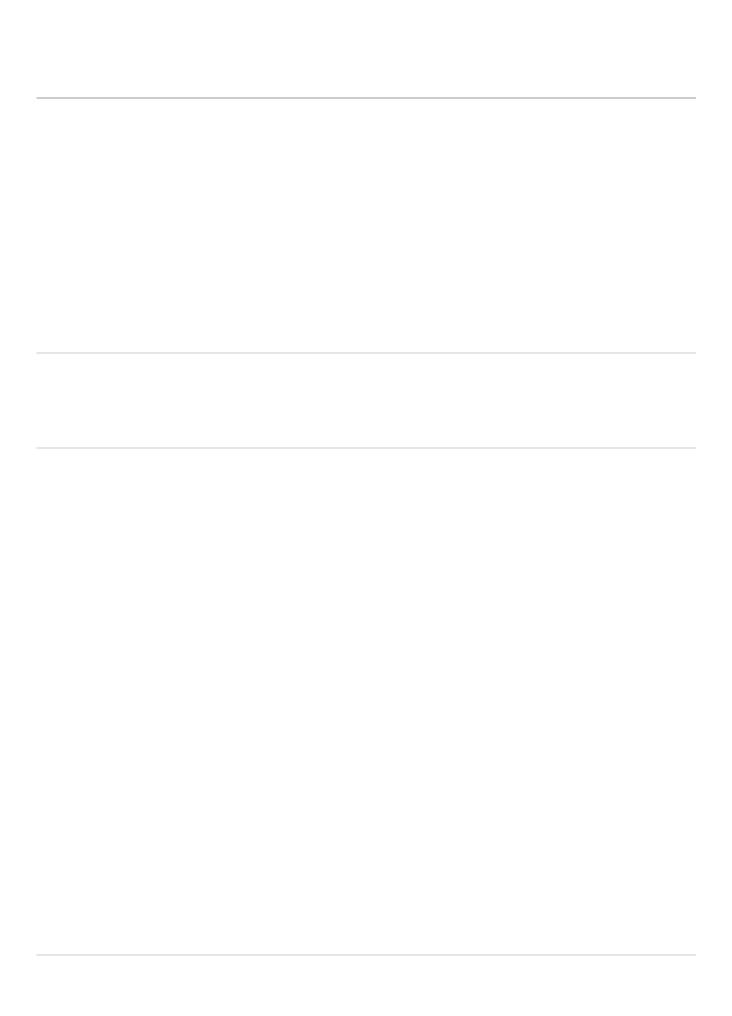
The current mission statement was reviewed during the most recent strategic planning process in 2018-2020. The mission is reflected via the institution's learning and research opportunities through partnerships with community, businesses, and factories. This is evidenced, for example, by the Kansas small business development center, partnering with Kansas State for the BSN, and the Shocker New Venture Competition. The mission concepts of instruction and scholarship are demonstrated by service learning courses (i.e. IME 452, SCWK 751), and applied learning experiences in all academic programs as noted in the catalog. Research and creative activities are shown by the steady increase in federal and non-federal awards and the grants received through the Office of Innovation and New Ventures to name a few.

The emphasis on serving the public good was demonstrated during the COVID pandemic via the free testing provided throughout the state by the molecular diagnostic laboratory. Staff and students also

participated in public forums related to testing and vaccinations.

The mission, vision, and values serve as foundational documents upon which colleges, departments, and other units build goals and objectives. The institution's academic offerings, student support services, and enrollment profile are consistent with the stated mission. WSU works closely with the Kansas community and the Midwest region to provide educational and programmatic venues appropriate to groups in these locations as evidenced by WSU South and McConnell Air Force Base. Recently WSU demonstrated its mission, vision, and values by providing protective equipment to health care workers in the surrounding community and setting up a lab for COVID19 testing in South-Central Kans

In accord with its mission, many students gain experience through educational offerings that provide real-life learning experiences and, in sompugh

Further evidence of the commitment to respect and equity as core values is noted in two goals of the strategic plan (campus culture and inclusive excellence). University policies that demonstrate this commitment include the Student Code of Conduct, Free Expression Policy, Housing and Residence Life Handbook, and the University Service Standards.

No Interim Monitoring Recommended.

The institution's mission is clear and articulated publbllb ul ul dpub s

intellectual property policies including patent and copyright management provide further evidenced of operating with integrity. Misconduct in research is also addressed.

WSU has a commitment to ethical hiring and promotion. This is evidenced by policies and statements concerning organizational governance, compliance with FERPA, unclassified professional policies, etc. to name a few. Policy 1.06 outlines the purpose and functions of auxiliary campus corporations. These policies and statements are posted and accessible to the university community.

No Interim Monitoring Recommended.

The governing board of the institution is autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution in compliance with board policies and to ensure the institution's integrity.

1. The governing board is trained and knowledgeable so that it makes informed decisions with respect to the institution's financial and academic policies and practices; the board meets its legal and fiduciary responsibilities.
2. The governing board's deliberations reflect priorities to preserve and enhance the institution.
3. The governing board reviews the reasonable and relevant interests of the institution's inteI

chief executive officer and having the authority to oversee many of the daily operational functions of the state universities, although the board has chosen to delegate actual performance of those functions to the chief executive officers and their staffs. An example of such includes a recent WSU proposal to transfer authority over supervision of certain classified information to a campus committee that was approved by KBOR in October 2020. Faculty retain the right to oversee academic matters.

No Interim Monitoring Recommended.

The institution is committed to academic freedom and freedom of expression in the pursuit of truth in teaching and learning.

Met

WSU expresses its committed to academic freedom and freedom of expression in the pursuit of truth in teaching and learning in statements, polices, and procedures. A commitment to Freedom of expression is seen

The institution's policies and procedures call for responsible acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge by its faculty, staff and students.

1. Institutions supporting basic and applied research maintain professional standards and provide oversight ensuring regulatory compliance, ethical behavior and fiscal accountability.
2. The institution provides effective support services to ensure the integrity of research and scholarly practice conducted by its faculty, staff and students.
3. The institution provides students guidance in the ethics of research and use of information resources.
4. The institution enforces policies on academic honesty and integrity.

Met

To ensure responsible acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge and to meet the needs of diverse student and faculty populations, Wichita State University provides oversight and support services to ensure the integrity of research and scholarly practice at all levels. Chapter 9 of the WSU Policies and Procedures Manual provides guidance on the conduct of research for the university.

Chapter 9, specifically policy 9.01, provides guidance and policy for overall administration of research. WSU's Office of Research, managed by the Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice-President for Research, facilitates and promotes ethical research at every step of the process. The office supports faculty and staff researchers with the development and implementation of proposals, grants and contracts.

To ensure that students are offered appropriate and sufficient guidance in the ethical use of information resources, WSU has committed efforts to address these goals at every level. Freshman students are grounded in library skills and research principles and ethics in required courses such as English 101 and 102 or through faculty librarians. In English 101, students must sign and submit a Plagiarism Contract signifying that they understand what constitutes plagiarism and what penalties may be imposed should they plagiarize. All English 102 students spend significant time addressing ethical and effective research practices and are exposed to copyright concerns.

The Kansas Board of Regents is committed to academic integrity and states: "The Board of Regents believes that academic dishonesty is inimical to the fundamental ideas of public higher education. Furthermore, the Board believes that public higher education has a mission to develop the moral reasoning abilities of students and to promote the importance of integrity in all aspects of student life, but particularly in academics. Therefore, it is the policy of the Kansas Board of Regents that student academic dishonesty not be tolerated on the campuses of the Regents institutions."

No Interim Monitoring Recommended.

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WSU offers students numerous opportunities to partner with experienced faculty members for undergraduate research opportunities. A wide variety of research opportunities across departmental core research areas include Aerospace Engineering, Anthropology, and Biology for example. WSU has facilitated partnerships with local industry-related employers to offer opportunities to students and has more than 200 industry and government clients and research partners.

 The institution encourages undergraduate research experiences for students as evidenced through creation of a student research repository of student research projects through the Shocker Open Access Repository, First Year Research Experience (FYRE), hosting an annual Undergraduate Research and Creativity Forum, an annual Graduate Research and Scholarly Projects Symposium (GRASP), and participation in the annual Capital Graduate Research Summit. In addition, the TRIO McNair Scholars Program prepares first-ge

The institution has the faculty ai A6

adviser before enrolling each semester.

Exit surveys report on student satisfaction and feed into the WSU Strategic Enrollment plan for continuous improvement. Overall, 80 percent of undergraduate students were satisfied or very satisfied with their academic advising. Graduate students report over 90 percent satisfaction with their academic advising. It would be interesting to see how these actual outcomes compare with the institutional goals for these metrics.

 Online Learning provides advising for students enrolled in 100 percent online programs. Business, Education, Health Professions, and Liberal Arts and Sciences are the only colleges that have 100 percent online programs, and each has an adviser for those students who are strictly online.

Detailed descriptions and evidence to support numerous technology and technical infrastructure support was provided. Additionally, extensive examples of Learning Venues were provided along with evidential links to the resources descri

The institution provides quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered.

Wichita State University demonstrates its ability to combine quality degrees with real-world, experience-based learning opportunities. From testing out a career to building a resume that will open doors, WSU students and graduates have access to resources needed to build the futures they want. This emphasis has been the focus of university work since the Higher Learning Commission's last site visit, as evidenced in WSU's new mission and strategic plan.

WSU responded to the COVID pandemic by offering services to the community and adjusting class schedules and teaching modalities. The institution assures that offerings are of high quality no matter what delivery method is utilized.

The continuing foci for the future will be on increasing faculty and staff diversity, and strengthening advising processes through the strategic enrollment management plan.

The institution engages in ongoing assessment of student learning as part of its commitment to the educational outcomes of its students.

1. The institution has effective processes for assessment of student learning and for achievement of learning goals in academic and cocurricular offerings.
2. The institution uses the information gained from assessment to improve student learning.
3. The institution's processes and methodologies to assess student learning reflect good practice, including the substantial participation of faculty, instructional and other relevant staff members.

Met

The institution has a well-documented assessment system focused on the evaluation of the general education program, which has the following student learning goals: 1) Have acquired knowledge in the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences; 2) Think critically and independently; 3) Write and speak effectively; and 4) Employ analytical reasoning and problem solving techniques.

The assessment system is also focused on degree programs and student affairs/co-curricular offerings (supported by the CAS standards). Mg

The institution utilizes best practice to collect and analyze information related to retention, persistence and completion, as evidenced by the existence of the Data Governance Council, which provides oversight to systems to ensure data integrity, best practices in data management, reporting standards, information consistency and security access. The institution also has key performance indicators related to retention, persistence and completion. There is also evidence of data governance by-laws, along with a Data Glossary and a published listing of Reporting Terminology, Definitions and Standards

No Interim Monitoring RTR☐m

The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes designed to promote continuous improvement.

The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments and support services, through regular program review for academic units, coupled with an assessment system focused on evaluation of the gene6 the gene6 i   â

The Office of Planning and Analysis (OPA) performs institutional research services and provides support for evaluation and assessment. OPA has implemented business intelligence platforms and predictive modelling thus transforming the manner in which the institution evaluates its performance. For example, the Inclusive Excellence goals of the 2020-21 Strategic Plan show specific objectives and example goals with measurable targets. These are further described in the President's 2021 priorities for the strategic plan. The performance agreement reports provide further evidence of using robust data to set goals and measure performance. The institution continues to deploy processes such as independent internal auditing in the decision-making process, as evidenced by consideration of a proposed merger between the Alumni Association and the Foundation. Based on the above evidence and publications and minutes of institutional councils and boards, and further evidence in the assurance document, the institution's administration uses data to reach informed decisions in the best interests of the institution and its constituents.

The KBOR specifically delegates responsibility for the operation of the University to the President. Chapter Four of the WSU Policies and Procedures Manual specifically gives the faculty collective responsibility for setting academic requirements, policies and processes, including the curriculum. The KBOR already stated con ove s G and i is m diKly.gie @iKe r univer
The educational and public service missions of the university, along with ove s i and

The above internal monitoring systems served the institution well during operational changes induced by COVID-19. Heavily used services such as student health and mental health services received supplemental funding, while overall the institution instituted salary freezes, limited discretionary spending, including travel, and implemented a voluntary separation program (early retirement). As a consequence, the institution's budgets did not result in any short-term financial shortfalls during the pandemic. This is also evidence of the institution's ability to support programming whenever and however needed.

No Interim Monitoring Recommended.

The institution engages in systematic and integrated planning and improvement.

1. The institution allocates its resources in alignment with its mission and priorities, including, as applicable, its comprehensive research enterprise, associated institutes and affiliated centers.

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Wichita State University has provided evidence that all criteria are met.

Met

No Sanction

Eligible to choose