

July 11, 2025

Fr. Justin Gable  
Interim President  
Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology  
2301 Vine Street  
Berkeley, CA 94708-1816

Dear President Gable:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology (DSPT) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 27, 2025. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology February 26-28, 2025 using the 2023 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's May 28, 2025 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Albert Duggan, President-Elect; Raphael Salzillo, Board of Directors Chair; Jess Raymond Alvarado, Chief Financial Officer; Christopher J. Renz, Accreditation Liaison Officer; Dennis Klein, DSPT Secretary; Courtney Therien, Compliance Officer; and Paschal Strader, Interim Academic Dean. 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 six years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2030 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2031
4. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by November 1, 2027 to address:
  - a. Finalization of strategic plan and report on progress towards resourcing and implementation
  - b. Enumeration of activities supporting education, development, and training of board of directors, including any initiatives by the board's governance committee to periodically evaluate members, processes, and composition

- c. Documentation of policies, procedures, structures, and workflows that support improved continuity of operations, spanning student services, human resources, and academic program review

## **Commendations**

The Commission commends the institution for:

1. The comprehensive integration of its deeply mission-centered and academically rigorous approach to the education of its students, which is authentically grounded in constructs such as intellectual humility, charity and compassion in service to others, faith in the Gospel, and rigorous study in the service of truth.
2. Its ongoing efforts to leverage advantageous partnerships (e.g., library services through the Graduate Theological Union) while maintaining the high quality of its academic offerings.

## **Areas for Development**

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

1. Finalize and begin implementation of the new strategic plan. (CFR 4.8)
2. Document policies, procedures, structures, and workflows to support improved continuity of operations, with efforts that span student services, human resources, and academic program review. (CFRs 2.3, 2.4, 3.11, 4.1)
3. Continue to develop the board of directors and clarify its relationship to the Western Dominican Province, the president, and the faculty, as guided by the WSCUC Governing Board Policy, and take advantage of external resources (e.g., the Association of Governing Boards). (CFRs 3.7, 3.8, 3.11, 4.7)
4. Pursue opportunities for ongoing leadership development, as well as proactive and transparent processes for evaluation of individuals in positions of leadership. (CFRs 3.3, 3.9)
5. Adopt meaningful and sustainable practices in the assessment of student learning; deployment of institutional data to support evidence-informed decision-making; and tracking of post-graduation pursuits. (CFRs 2.3, 2.9, 2.11, 3.11, 4.2)

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

location on the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology 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 Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology 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. Toyoda', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

A. Maria Toyoda  
President

AMT/lp

Cc: Tracy Poon Tambascia, Commission Chair  
Christopher Renz, ALO  
Raphael Salzillo, Board Chair  
Members of the Accreditation Visit Team  
Linda Petersen, Vice President