

July 9, 2026

Dr. Gonzalo Mendieta
Rector
Universidad de Las Américas
Vía Nayon a 300 metros del Redondel del Ciclista
Quito, PC 170137
Ecuador

Dear Rector Mendieta:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Universidad de Las Américas (UDLA) 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 Special Visit to Universidad de Las Américas April 22 – 24, 2026 using the 2023 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Universidad de Las Américas prior to the Special Visit and the institution's June 8, 2026 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you, and your colleagues Carlos Larreategui, Chancellor; Diego Buenaño, Academic Vice Rector; and Sol Villasís, Director of International Accreditation 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 status with WSCUC.

Actions

1. Receive the Special Visit Team Report that focused on: (1) institutional governance; (2) shared governance; (3) the FLEX model; and (4) strategies to monitor and improve retention and graduation rates for all students
2. Continue with the previously scheduled reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2031 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2032.

Commendations

The Commission commends the institution for:

1. Demonstrating a serious institutional commitment to the WSCUC review process, evidenced by broad engagement and meaningful early progress in addressing the prior recommendations.
2. Implementing Project Conectar as a targeted student success initiative, demonstrating coordinated staff and faculty engagement and promising impact on retention and graduation.

3. Continuing to develop FLEX, initially implemented as an emergency mechanism, as a fully realized strategic model that ensures academic continuity for on-site students.

Areas for Development

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

1. Evidence that UDLA's institutional governance strategies reflect an effective annual evaluation process and appropriate independence of the governing board and its committees. (CFR 3.7, 3.9, 3.10)
2. Ensure the institution's university and academic councils and committees are adhering to their definitions and purposes to support faculty's ability to exercise effective academic leadership. (CFR 2.6, 3.10)
3. Substantiate the potential and impact of UDLA's FLEX model to foster adequate student retention and graduation outcomes. (CFR 2.10)
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of UDLA's multi-faceted approach to improve and sustain strong student retention and graduation outcomes. (CFR 2.10)

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of Universidad de Las Américas' governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Universidad de Las Américas 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 Universidad de Las Américas undertook in preparing for and supporting this Special Visit 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. Maria Toyoda
President

AMT/rco

Cc: Mary Marcy, Commission Chair
A Maria Sol Villacis, ALO
Carlos Larreategui, Board Chair
Members of the Special Visit Team
Maureen Maloney, WSCUC Staff Liaison
Richard Osborn, Retired WSCUC Vice President; Visit Liaison