

**From:** [Barbara Gross Davis](#)  
**To:** [Laura Palucki Blake](#)  
**Subject:** Harvey Mudd: Proposed Themes  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 23, 2019 12:55:05 PM

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Dear Laura:

We appreciate receiving your proposal for the Thematic Pathway Review (TPR), “Healthy Excellence: Putting Success in Perspective.” Below we provide some general comments that emerged from reading all the proposals and specific feedback related to your submission.

WSCUC staff reviewed the twelve thematic proposals submitted from the second cohort of institutions with Accreditation Visits scheduled for spring 2021, fall 2021, and spring 2022. The proposals represent a wide range of issues and topics and address important and meaningful questions that will engage institutions with complex issues. Some common themes were student success; equity, inclusion and diversity; and curriculum issues. Themes were developed through inclusive processes with multiple feedback loops involving key stakeholders, and proposals were well aligned with CFRs. Some but not all proposals had clear timetables for completion of the work and expected deliverables. We also found that many were of a degree of complexity and comprehensiveness such that they are probably not fully achievable by the date of the visit. As you move forward, we ask that you carefully consider what can reasonably be accomplished by the time of your institutional report and visit. Please share this question with your planning committees. A timeline may help to focus your work, if you don’t already have one. Additionally, the success of an institution’s work can best be evaluated if there are specific outcomes, evidence of whether outcomes are achieved, and an indication of how the results have been used. Teams look for analysis and reflection, not just description.

In terms of specific feedback, we note that the Harvey Mudd College proposal identified themes that are important to the institution, are widely supported by campus stakeholders, and are expected to lead to improvements in wellness, culture, curriculum and co-curricular programs. The projects proposed are ambitious, and some work has already been undertaken in these areas that lay a foundation for success. In terms of the co-curricular project, we wondered whether the review of the four co-curricular programs might lead to a general template or strategy for examining the effectiveness of other co-curricular programs at Harvey Mudd at some future time. In terms of the overall proposal, we suggest that you think about the specific deliverables for your institutional report, which will be due ten weeks before the Accreditation Visit in spring 2021. It may be helpful to develop a detailed timeline that would unpack the items in the chart on page 7 with more specificity to indicate, for example, key tasks, critical dates, responsible groups or individuals, expected outcomes, and deliverables to ensure that the institutional report includes some completed projects, with evidence of using the findings for improvement. Note that not all aspects of all projects need to be completed by the time of the review. However, you will want your institutional report to show evidence of some completed activities and the plans for finishing what remains.

The TPR Guide is here: <https://wascsenior.box.com/s/iqp070yb021d9jyg6zm5q88p7kyn7a58>, and includes suggestions for how to organize your institutional report.

We continue to try and learn from one another as we implement this new review process. Please indicate your willingness to share your proposal with other institutions approved for the TPR by replying to this email and checking the appropriate option:

- Yes, I am willing to share my proposal
- No, I prefer not to share my proposal

WSCUC staff will create a very brief summary of your proposal (one to three sentences) and include it with summaries of all TPR proposals, available for the public on the WSCUC website within the next several months.

Thank you for all of your work. We look forward to your reflection of the impact of your work in the institutional report. As always, feel free to follow up with me if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to

collaborating on this important process.

All the best,

Barbara

Barbara Gross Davis, Ph.D.  
Vice President  
WASC Senior College and University Commission  
985 Atlantic Ave, Suite 100  
Alameda, CA 94501  
510-748-9798  
bdavis@wscuc.org  
www.wscuc.org

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