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8	BEFORE THE						
9	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOR THE BUREAU FOR PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION						
10	STATE OF C.	ALIFORNIA					
11							
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 1000650					
13	SILICON VALLEY UNIVERSITY 2010 Fortune Drive	OAH No. 2018020561					
14	San Jose, CA 95131	FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION					
15	Accredited Institution Approval to Operate No. 4306571	·					
16	Respondent.						
17							
18	Complainant alleges:						
19	<u>PARTIES</u>						
20	1. Dr. Michael Marion, Jr. (Complainant) brings this First Amended Accusation solely						
21	in his official capacity as the Chief of the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education,						
22	Department of Consumer Affairs.						
23	2. On or about March 12, 1999, the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education granted						
24	an Accredited Institution Approval to Operate to Silicon Valley University (Respondent). The						
25	Accredited Institution Approval to Operate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the						
26	charges brought herein, with the exception of the first cause for discipline (failure to maintain						
27	accreditation.) The Accredited Institution Approval to Operate expired effective December 7,						
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contract, and false or misleading claims or advertising, upon which a student reasonably relied in executing an enrollment agreement and that resulted in harm to the student."

6. Section 94885, subdivision (b) of the Code states:

"Except as provided in Section 94885.1, an institution offering a degree must satisfy one of the following requirements:

- "(1) Accreditation by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, with the scope of that accreditation covering the offering of at least one degree program by the institution.
- "(2) An accreditation plan, approved by the bureau, for the institution to become fully accredited within five years of the bureau's issuance of a provisional approval to operate to the institution. The provisional approval to operate to an unaccredited degree-offering institution shall be in compliance with Section 94885.5."
  - 7. Section 94890 of the Code states:
- "(a)(1) The bureau shall grant an institution that is accredited an approval to operate by means of its accreditation.

"(b) The term of approval to operate pursuant to this section shall be coterminous with the term of accreditation. Upon renewal of the institution's accreditation, the institution shall submit verification to the bureau, on a form provided by the bureau, that the institution's accreditation has been renewed."

- 8. Section 94900 of the Code states:
- "(a) An institution shall maintain records of the name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number of each student who is enrolled in an educational program in that institution.
- "(b) An institution shall maintain, for each student granted a degree or certificate by that institution, permanent records of all of the following:
- "(1) The degree or certificate granted and the date on which that degree or certificate was granted.
  - "(2) The courses and units on which the certificate or degree was based.

14.	California	Code of	Regulations,	title 5,	section	71715	states,	in p	art:
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- "(a) Instruction shall be the central focus of the resources and services of the institution.
- "(b) The institution shall document that the instruction offered leads to the achievement of the learning objectives of each course.
- "(c) Direct instruction requires the physical presence of one or more students and one or more faculty members at the same location. Direct instruction includes instruction presented in a classroom, seminar, workshop, lecture, colloquium, laboratory, tutorial, or other physical learning settings consistent with the mission, purposes, and objectives of the institution.

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## 15. California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 71770 states:

- "(a) The institution shall establish specific written standards for student admissions for each educational program. These standards shall be related to the particular educational program. An institution shall not admit any student who is obviously unqualified or who does not appear to have a reasonable prospect of completing the program. In addition to any specific standards for an educational program, the admissions standards must specify as applicable that:
- "(1) Each student admitted to an undergraduate degree program, or a diploma program, shall possess a high school diploma or its equivalent, or otherwise successfully take and pass the relevant examination as required by section 94904 of the Code.
- "(2) Each student admitted into a post-baccalaureate degree program shall possess a bachelor's degree or its equivalent. If a graduate program leads to a profession or an occupation requiring state licensure and the licensing agency does not require that a member of the profession or occupation possess a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent, this subdivision does not apply.
- "(b) The institution shall specify the maximum credit it will transfer from another institution for each educational program, and the basis upon which the transferred credit will be awarded.

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"(1) Except as limited by subdivision (c) of this section, a maximum of 75 percent of the
units or credit that may be applied toward the award of a bachelor's degree may be derived from a
combination of any or both of the following:

- "(A) Units earned at institutions approved by the Bureau, public or private institutions of higher learning accredited by an accrediting association recognized by the U. S. Department of Education, or any institution of higher learning, including foreign institutions, if the institution offering the undergraduate program documents that the institution of higher learning at which the units were earned offers degree programs equivalent to degree programs approved by the Bureau or accredited by an accrediting association recognized by the U.S. Department of Education:
- "(B) Challenge examinations and standardized tests such as the College Level Placement Tests (CLEP) for specific academic disciplines.
- "(2) No more than 20% of graduate semester units or the equivalent in other units awarded by another institution may be transferred for credit toward a Master's degree. An institution may accept transfer credits only from the institutions of higher learning described in subsection (1)(A).
- "(3) No more than 30 graduate semester credits or its equivalent awarded by another institution may be credited toward a doctoral degree. This subdivision does not apply to graduate programs that lead to a profession or an occupation requiring state licensure where the licensing agency has a regulation permitting a different standard.
- "(c) If credit for prior experiential learning is to be granted, the policy for granting such credit shall be included in the institution's catalog.
  - "(1) An institution may grant credit to a student for prior experiential learning only if:
  - "(A) The prior learning is equivalent to a college or university level of learning;
  - "(B) The learning experience demonstrates a balance between theory and practice and;
- "(C) The credit awarded for the prior learning experience directly relates to the student's degree program and is applied in satisfaction of some of the degree requirements.
- "(2) Each college or university level learning experience for which credit is sought shall be documented by the student in writing.

- "(3) Each college or university level learning experience shall be evaluated by faculty qualified in that specific subject area who shall ascertain (1) to what college or university level learning the student's prior experience is equivalent and (2) how many credits toward a degree may be granted for that experience.
- "(4) The faculty evaluating the prior learning shall prepare a written report indicating all of the following:
- "(A) The documents in the student's record on which the faculty member relied in determining the nature of the student's prior experience;
- "(B) The bases for determining that the prior experience (i) is equivalent to college or university level learning and (ii) demonstrates a balance between theory and practice; and
- "(C) The bases for determining (i) to what college or university level the experience is equivalent and (ii) the proper number of credits to be awarded toward the degree for that experience.
- "(5)(A) The institution shall designate at least one administrator to be responsible for the review of faculty determinations regarding the award of credit for prior experiential learning.
- "(B) The administrator shall document the institution's periodic review of faculty evaluations to assure that the faculty written evaluations and awards of credit comply with this section and the institution's policies and are consistent.
- "(6) The amount of credit awarded for prior experiential learning shall not be related to the amount charged the student for the assessment process.
- "(7)(A) Of the first 60 semester credits awarded a student in an undergraduate program, no more than 15 semester credits may be awarded for prior experiential learning.
- "(B) Of the second 60 semester units (i.e., credits 61 to 120) awarded a student in an undergraduate program, no more than 15 semester credits may be awarded for prior experiential learning.
- "(C) Of the first 30 semester credits awarded a student in a graduate program, no more than 6 semester credits may be awarded for prior experiential learning.

"Each institution shall maintain the name, physical address, telephone number, and e-mail address for the agent for service of process in California as required by 94943.5 of the Code. The agent shall be at an address other than the address of the institution or any branch. The agent must confirm the information and acknowledge in writing that he or she is the designated agent for service of process. The institution shall inform the Bureau in writing of any change in the information for the agent for service of process, signed by the agent, within 7 days. Until the Bureau actually receives written notice of any change in the agent's name and/or address, service on the prior agent shall be valid. This information is considered public information."

20. California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 76000 states, in part:

"For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

"(g) "Qualifying institution" is an approved institution that is subject to the provisions of Article 14, commencing with section 94923 of the Code, including out-of-state institutions registered with the Bureau pursuant to section 94801.5 of the Code.

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21. California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 76120 states, in part:

"(a) Each qualifying institution shall collect an assessment of zero dollars (\$0) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of institutional charges, rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, from each student in an educational program who is a California resident or is enrolled in a residency program. For institutional charges of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or less, the assessment is zero dollars (\$0).

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22. California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 76130 states, in part:

"(a)(1) A qualifying institution shall collect the assessment from each student in an educational program at the time it collects the first payment from or on behalf of the student at or after enrollment. The assessment shall be collected for the entire period of enrollment, regardless of whether the student pays the institutional charges in increments.

1	"(2) The assessment to be collected from a re-enrolling student shall be limited to any				
2	amount that is due after crediting any prior assessment amount paid by the student. The				
3	enrollment agreement shall clearly identify any prior STRF assessment paid by the student.				
4	"				
5	<u>COST RECOVERY</u>				
6	23. Business and Professions Code section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that the				
7	Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a				
8	violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the				
9	investigation and enforcement of the case, with failure of the licentiate to comply subjecting the				
10	license to not being renewed or reinstated. If a case settles, recovery of investigation and				
11	enforcement costs may be included in a stipulated settlement.				
12	23. Section 94937, subdivision (c) of the Code provides that the Bureau may seek				
13	reimbursement pursuant to section 125.3 of the Business and Professions Code.				
14 15	FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE (Accreditation) (Ed. Code, §§ 94885, subd. (b)(1), 94890, subd. (b))				
16	24. Respondent has subjected its approval to operate to disciplinary action for failing to				
17	maintain accreditation from an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department o				
18	Education. (Ed. Code, § 94885, subd. (b)(1).) In particular:				
19	a. On or about December 7, 2017, the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges				
20	and Schools revoked Respondent's accreditation.				
21	b. Despite its loss of accreditation, Respondent continued to operate until on or about				
22	April 10, 2018.				
23 24	SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE  (Required Institutional Records)  (Ed. Code, § 94900.5, subd. (c))				
25	25. Respondent has subjected its approval to operate to disciplinary action for failing to				
26	maintain accurate records. (Ed. Code, § 94900.5, subd. (c).) In particular:				
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a. Respondent's Program Objectives and Curriculum for its Masters in Science in Computer Science (MSCS) Program listed 36 credit hours total. Of the 36 credit hours, 18 credits were for Science Graduate Core courses, and 18 were for elective courses. None of the electives were listed for the Program Objectives and Curriculum, and Respondent therefore did not demonstrate that the program and its subject areas and courses were presented in a logically organized manner or sequence.

## SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Educational Program) (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 71710, subd. (c)(7))

- 29. Respondent has subjected its approval to operate to disciplinary action for failing to provide each student with a syllabus or course outline that contains the course's instructional mode or methods. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 71710, subd. (c)(7).) In particular:
  - a. The syllabi for Respondent's MSCS program did not include the program's instructional mode or method.

## SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Educational Program) (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 71710, subd. (e)-(f))

- 30. Respondent has subjected its approval to operate to disciplinary action for failing to comprise a curriculum that includes specific learning outcomes tied to the sequence of the presentation of the material to measure the students' learning of the material, and evaluation by duly qualified faculty of those learning outcomes. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 71710(e)-(f).) In particular:
  - a. Respondent's "Program Objectives and Curriculum" lacked specific learning outcomes tied to the sequence of the presentation of the material and how those learning outcomes would be evaluated by duly qualified faculty.

#### EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Admission Standards) (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 71770, subd. (a))

31. Respondent has subjected its approval to operate to disciplinary action for failing to establish and/or adhere to specific written standards for student admissions for each educational program, and for admitting students who are obviously unqualified or who do not appear to have

a reasonable prospect of completing the program. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 71770, subd. (a).) In particular:

a. Respondent had an admission requirement that all international students must demonstrate that they are English proficient by taking either a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or an English placement test. Respondent also had a policy which permitted students who were not English proficient to enroll in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses simultaneous to taking coursework related to a degree. However, Respondent permitted students who were not English proficient to take degree related coursework taught solely in English, without concurrently taking ESL classes.

### NINTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Admission Standards and Transferred Credits Policy) (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 71770, subd. (b)(2))

- 32. Respondent has subjected its approval to operate to disciplinary action for failing to comprise a curriculum that limited transfer credits from other institutions to 20% of total degree credits. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 71770, subd. (b)(2).) In particular:
  - a. Respondent permitted at least one student to apply nine transfer credits to his MSCS, which required 36 credits. 20% of 36 credits would have been a maximum of 7.2 credits. Additionally, Respondent's 2017 Catalog listed the transfer credit policy as permitting the transfer of nine credits for a 36 credit Master's Program, which is in excess of 20%.

#### TENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Catalog) (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 71810, subd. (b)(10))

- 33. Respondent has subjected its approval to operate to disciplinary action for having a catalog that failed to describe a library and other learning resources, and the procedures for students to access those resources. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 71810 (b)(10).) In particular:
  - a. Respondent's 2017 Catalog did not contain the procedures for students to follow in order to access the library and other learning resources.

#### ELEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

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## (Student Records) (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 71920, subd. (b)(1)(A))

- Respondent has subjected its approval to operate to disciplinary action for failing to maintain the following pertinent student records: written records and transcripts of any formal education or training, testing, or experience that are relevant to the student's qualifications for admission to the institution or the institution's award of credit or acceptance of transfer credits including verification of high school completion or equivalency or other documentation establishing the student's ability to do college level work, such as successful completion of an ability-to-benefit test. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 71920, subd. (b)(1)(A).) In particular:
  - a. At least one student file did not contain documentation that the student had met an English proficiency requirement such as TOEFL or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score or English Placement Test.

## TWELFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Required Institutional Records)

(Ed. Code, § 94900.5, subd. (c); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 71920, subd. (b)(3), 71930, subd. (a)-(b)(1))

- 35. Respondent has subjected its approval to operate to disciplinary action for failing to maintain, at its principle place of business for at least five years, student files containing all documents signed by the student, including contracts, instruments of indebtedness, and documents related to financial aid. (Ed. Code, § 94900.5, subd. (c); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 71920, subd. (b)(3), 91730, subd. (a)-(b)(1).) In particular:
  - a. Several student files maintained by Respondent did not contain Enrollment Agreements.

# THIRTEENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Student Records)

(Ed. Code. § 94900.5, subd. (c); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 71920, subd. (b)(5)(E))

- Respondent has subjected its approval to operate to disciplinary action for failing to 36. maintain student transcripts containing Respondent's name, address, website address, or telephone number. (Ed. Code, § 94900.5, subd. (c); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 71920 (b)(5)(E).) In particular:
  - a. Several student files maintained by Respondent in 2016 did not contain transcripts with Respondent's name, address, website address, or telephone number.

## **PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending or otherwise imposing discipline upon Accredited Institution Approval to Operate No. 4306571;
- 2. Ordering Respondent to pay the Bureau the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case; and
  - 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: 4/26/18

DR. MICHAEL MARION, JR.

Chief

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

Complainant

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