



Accreditation Committee		
MINUTES FOR Friday, March 10, 2017	12:00 p.m.	Cravens Student Service Center, Multi-Purpose Room
Members Present:	Annebelle Nery (Co-Chair), Bert Bitanga (Co-Chair), Carl Farmer, Christen Smith, Courtney Doussett, Daniel Martinez, Donna Greene, Gary Ginther, Jenn Baker, Joel Kinnamon, Kim Dozier, Leslie Young, Lisa Howell, Mary Anne Gularte, Pamela Ralston, Scott Ventura, Sheri Willis, Wendy Sanders	
Members not Present:	Amanda Phillips, Chris Jones-Cage, Luis Castellanos, Sandra Hauf	
Guest(s):	Andrea Staehle, John Ramont, Julia Breyer, Rick Rawnsley	
Recorder:	Mary Lou Marrujo	

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – Meeting convened at 12:01 p.m.		
2. Action Item(s)		
2.1 Approval of Agenda		
DISCUSSION	Bert Bitanga requested to add “Quality Focus Essay” (QFE) to the agenda as item 3.3.	
CONCLUSION	Agenda approved as amended.	
FOLLOW-UP ITEMS		PERSON RESPONSIBLE
		DEADLINE
2.2 Approval of December 9, 2016 Minutes		
DISCUSSION		
CONCLUSION	Minutes approved as submitted.	
FOLLOW-UP ITEMS		PERSON RESPONSIBLE
		DEADLINE
3. Information/Discussion Item(s)		
3.1 Debrief recent ACCJC training – C. Doussett, R. Rawnsley		
DISCUSSION	<p>Courtney Doussett and Rick Rawnsley attended the ASCCC Accreditations Institute Conference last month at Napa, California. They shared a PowerPoint (copy attached) that was presented at the conference entitled, “The Future of Accreditation in the California Community Colleges.” Predictions and changes to our accreditation process in California was one of the hot topics. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 2016 there was a CEO Symposium wherein 89% opted for change to existing processes, while 5% opted for no change. • Our area is Workgroup 1. They met in May 2016 and focused on the process and structure of the visits. • There are six other regional accreditors across the nation, and existing processes are different. We are the only group that separates into four-year institutions and community college systems under different accreditors. • One reason discussed to not keep this model: 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Blurring of lines from high school into community college, and community college to four-year institutions. • Key elements for what a new model could look like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collegial learning community ○ More transparency ○ Better infrastructure ○ Technical assistance assigned to each College <p>There was also discussion on a roadmap of options—steps required, timelines, etc. Four of the options identified are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build stronger relationships between the two accrediting agencies already in place—ACCJC and WASC 2. Have all community colleges across California choose their own Accreditor 3. Have a single Accreditor for the entire Western Region 4. Look somewhere else and look for another accreditor <p>Consensus was that we have a single Accreditor for the Western Region, so then ACCJC gets swept into WASC. This could take up to 10 years to accomplish as there needs to be a consensus by community colleges in throughout the Western region.</p>
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CONCLUSION	
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FOLLOW-UP ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

3.2 Progress Updates

DISCUSSION	<p>Each Standard chair reviewed the progress on their outlines. Annabelle Nery advised that she is reviewing each draft outline and will be working with Rick Rawnsley on merging the documents.</p> <p>Discussion ensued on continuing to work on outlines as they are being edited and integrating updates.</p> <p>Target to consolidate the entire document is April 1st. As a group, everyone will need to read the entire self-evaluation report. Presentations to the appropriate constituents will occur in May.</p> <p>Annebelle will be forwarding a schedule for publishing the document to the PIO (Public Information Office). It will have the same look as the Strategic Master Plan and College Planning Council handbook.</p>
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CONCLUSION	
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FOLLOW-UP ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

3.3 Quality Focus Essay Report – B. Bitanga

DISCUSSION	<p>Bert Bitanga gave an update on the QFE report. The action projects have been identified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A systemic integration of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), Assessment Program Review and the Annual Prioritization Planning process.
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	<p>2. Professional development role and the role that Human Resources plays in that ongoing for all staff and all leadership.</p> <p>Bert reviewed his draft of #1 and asked for input. There was discussion on the term <i>Annual Prioritization Planning</i> and how it could be better defined. Perhaps <i>Planning Processes</i>, and <i>Annual Prioritization</i> separately. More discussion ensued.</p> <p>Christen advised that there is a project going on at this time that will be addressing some of the issues mentioned. She said they will provide their feedback to Bert by April 1st.</p>	
CONCLUSION		
FOLLOW-UP ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
<p>4. Adjournment: 1:09 pm</p>		

NEXT MEETING:

Friday, May 5, 2017

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Cravens Student Service Center, Multi-Purpose Room



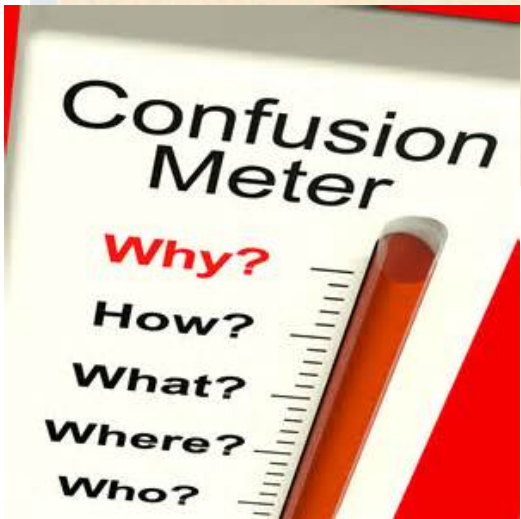
The Future of Accreditation in the California Community Colleges



Craig Rutan, ASCCC Accreditation Chair
Helen Benjamin, Retired Chancellor, Contra Costa Community College District
Cindy Miles, Chancellor, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District
Richard Winn, Interim President, ACCJC

+ Drivers for Change...

CONCERN



+ State Chancellor's Accreditation Task Forces*

2009 Task Force 1.0 - Chancellor Jack Scott

Jan 2010 - 7 Recommendations to ACCJC

2013 Task Force 2.0 - Chancellor Brice Harris

Report not released

2015 Task Force 3.0 - Chancellor Brice Harris

Report August 2015

Nov 2015 - BOG Action

2016 Task Force 4.0 (Implementation Task Force)

Mar 2016 - BOG Action

**With representatives from statewide academic senate, chief executive officers, chief instructional officers, chief student services officers, organized labor, boards of trustees, state chancellor's office.*

+ 2016

Jan- Feb: Accreditation Implementation Taskforce 4.0

- Meetings w/ACCJC, WASC Sr. Commissioners & staff; draft plan to Consultation Council

March - CEO Symposium (~90 CEOs participated, follow-up to all 136)

- 99 (73%) responded to the survey.
- 89% opted for change (Option 2/3); 5% opted for no change (Option 1).

March - BOG directed STATE CHANCELLOR:

- Notify ACCJC of BOG support for CEOCCC plan
- Participate with CEOs in coordinating 2 workgroups:
 - I. Recommend immediate changes to IMPROVE existing processes and culture of ACCJC
 - II. Pursue a MODEL for regional accreditation that aligns all segments of higher education in the Western region.
- Report back to BOG beginning July 2016

April - Workgroup I began meeting; May - Workgroup II began meeting

December - New ACCJC Leadership

+ Workgroup I: Improving ACCJC Structure, Function & Relations

- Led by Dr. Helen Benjamin, retired Chancellor, Contra Costa Community College District
- Began meeting on April 21, 2016 after the Chief Executive Officers Meeting on March 13-15, 2016
 - CEOs from 11 California regions
 - CEO from private two-year college
 - 2 Academic Senate
 - 2 ALOs
 - 2 ACCJC Commissioners



Workgroup I – Goal/Responsibilities/Timeline

- **Goal** – to work with the ACCJC to undertake significant improvements in the structure and functioning of the Commission to address long-standing concerns of its members, giving special attention to the concerns noted by the U.S. Department of Education requiring compliance by October 2016.

- **Responsibilities**
 - Develop a plan, timeline and measurable outcomes
 - Lead and monitor the implementation of changes
 - Provide regular updates on the group’s activities and progress

- **Timeline – Report - June 8-10, 2016 ACCJC Commission meeting**



+ Workgroup I – Five Areas of Focus

1. Training and Selection – Visiting Team Chair/Team Member Selection/Training
2. Communication – Tone and Quality
3. Evaluation – Continuous quality feedback loop
4. Process and Structure of the Visit – Process, Structure
5. Commission Operations – Financial Transparency, Commission Size/Composition, Nominating Committee



Workgroup I Preliminary report

- June 8-10, 2016 ACCJC Commission meeting
- Preliminary ACCJC Response August 16, 2016 (22 pages)
- Several meetings with the ACCJC leadership

Reports online at:

- http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/CA_CC_CEOs_Work_Group_1_Preliminary_Report_June_2016.pdf
- http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/ACCJC_Preliminary_Response_to_Work_Group_1-August_2016.pdf

+ Predicting the future, or shaping the future?

- What do we know for sure?
 - Accreditation will continue
 - Accreditation will change

So, about that change . . .

+ Near-term Change at ACCJC

■ At the office:

- By next fall, 100% turnover of Senior Staff from last year
- Executive Search is underway; June decision, August placement as target
- Meanwhile: An Interim President, with endorsement to make some changes

+ Near-term Change at ACCJC

- The Commission Development Workshop in March: – A Mission, Strategic Plan, and Priorities, informed by Workgroup
- Ways to make the review process more effective, less burdensome, more safe
- A spirit of openness to new directions and diverse opinions

+ Near-term Changes at ACCJC

- The Commission office:
 - Continued educational engagement
 - Annual Conference
 - Improved training events
 - Professionalize office practices
 - Build effective partnerships

+ Workgroup II: Western Region Higher Education Accrediting Model



- 13 California Community Colleges CEOs
 - Chancellor, Maui Community College
 - Private Two-Year College
 - WASC Senior (WSCUC), Chair of Commission & President
 - ACCJC, Chair of Commission, Interim President
- Goal: Develop framework for assessing the regional higher education accrediting landscape and determining the best approach for regional alignment and implementation steps.
 - Provide updates to the region beginning September 1, 2016
 - Meetings May, July, October 2016, January 2017

+ Higher Ed Landscape

- Segmented accrediting system in Western region

 - Other 6 regional accreditors = late 19th, early 20th Century

 - ACCJC = 1962 from K-12 system via California Master Plan for Higher Education

- Blurring of lines between segments of education

 - Concurrent enrollment, community college baccalaureate, university colleges, associate degrees for transfer

- Increasing demands on accreditors from USDE and Congress

 - Student achievement, completion rates, college costs, loan default rates, colleges “at risk”

+ Key Elements for MODEL system

1. **Collegial learning community** with accrediting commission as partner
2. **Transparency** in all aspects of commission governance and operations
3. Well-developed **infrastructure** for training teams and colleges
4. Highly experienced and qualified **technical assistance** assigned to each college



5. Peer evaluation from colleagues who understand the goal of **accreditation is to improve institutions and serve the “whole student”**
6. Focus on clearly defined measures of student learning and success that **transcend courses and disciplines.**
7. Opportunities for **pathways and interactions** between leaders, faculty, staff from all segments of higher education
8. Willingness and ability to **respond to changing needs** and demands, while remaining **grounded in values.**



+ Roadmap of Options

IDENTIFIED steps required, timelines, pros, cons, and other resources needed for 4 options:

1. **Stronger relationship between ACCJC and WASC Senior (WSCUC)**
2. **Two-year colleges can choose an Accreditor (ACCJC or WSCUC)**
3. **Single Accreditor for Western Region**
4. **Relationship with another accreditor**



Workgroup II

6 MONTHS DELIBERATION & REVIEW

Compared Processes

Northwest Commission, Higher Learning Commission, WASC Senior

Higher Education Landscape & NACIQI

National Policy Advisor; Former Deputy Under Secretary, NACIQI Chair, USDE

Feedback from Under Secretary Ted Mitchell & USDE staff

CONSENSUS

LONG-TERM GOAL:

Single Accreditor for Western Region



+ Assumptions:

- Attaining this goal will take a number of years (~10 yrs.)
- Many details and steps to be clarified, but expected to involve a process of colleges transitioning from ACCJC to WSCUC over a period of years:
 - I. **Western region community college consensus**
 - II. **Request to WSCUC**
 - III. **WSCUC request for change of scope to USDE**
 - IV. **Transition sequence, likely following natural reaffirmation timelines**
- Critical to sustain the viability and USDE recognition of ACCJC during transition.

+ NEXT STEPS...

- **White Paper**
- **Implementation, Timeline, Communication Plans**
- **Joint CEO Symposium – February 26-28**
- **Must engage all our constituency groups in California, Hawaii, and Western Pacific in developing the best possible plans.**
- **Many constituent discussions...**

