



ACADEMIC SENATE FOR COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS

President

Rebecca Eikey

Vice President

Teresa Ciardi

Senators

Regina Blasberg
Amy Shennum
Wendy Brill-Wynkoop
Garrett Hooper
Tracey Sherard
Philip Marcellin
Victoria Leonard
Robert Maxwell
Ron Karlin
Ann Lowe
David Andrus

At Large Senators

Diane Baker
Lee Hilliard
Deanna Riveira
Michael Sherry
Valerie Malinoski

Adjunct Faculty

Kimberly Bonfiglio
Jason Burgdofer

Non-Voting Members

Lita Wangen, Administrative Assistant
Amy Foote, AFT President
Dr. Jerry Buckley, VP of Instruction
Dr. Michael Wilding, VP of Student Services

November 5, 2015

Chancellor Brice Harris
California Community Colleges
1102 Q Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Chancellor Harris,

We have read the Report of the 2015 Accreditation Task Force and we wholeheartedly endorse the Recommendations of the Task Force, specifically to either join with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Division or to explore affiliation with another regional accrediting agency.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Eikey
President

Teresa Ciardi
Vice President

**Resolution in Support of the Recommendations of the Chancellor's
Accreditation Task Force 2015
Fall 2015**

Whereas, The U.S. system of regional accreditation continues a long tradition of providing essential guarantees of quality in America's post-secondary institutions; a spirit of collaboration and mutual respect between the regional commissions and their member institutions is essential to the success of the system of accreditation; and a shared focus on the needs and interests of students is primary and vital to preserve, and

Whereas, Over the last decade, the relationship in the Western Region between the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) and California's 112 community colleges has changed from one of constructive collegiality to one in which the member colleges increasingly report antagonism, intimidation and fear, and

Whereas, The ACCJC levels sanctions against California community colleges at a rate that is 400% of the sanction levels seen in other regions and in four-year California institutions,

Whereas, Concerns about the changed nature of the relationship between the ACCJC and many of its member institutions have been documented by resolutions, articles and complaints prepared and approved by leading statewide organizations of professional educators, including the Community College Council of the California Federation of Teachers (CCC-CFT), the Community College Association of the California Teachers Association (CCA-CTA), the California Community College Independents (CCCI), the Faculty Association of the California Community Colleges (FACCC) and the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges (ASCCC),

Whereas, Many Administrative, Trustee, Support Staff and Student Groups have joined faculty in expressing concern about the actions of the ACCJC,

Whereas, The growing concerns regarding the ACCJC have led to a review of the ACCJC's financial impact on community colleges by the CA Legislature's Joint Legislative Audit Committee, creation of three separate Task Forces by the California State Chancellor's office, filing of three lawsuits against the ACCJC, and multiple public statements of concern from members of California's Congressional delegation as well as state legislators, and

Whereas, The ACCJC's frequent sanctions based on the legitimate activities of trustees of Community College District Boards have raised serious concerns regarding the free speech rights of elected officials and the rights of voters to representation by duly elected officials, and

Whereas, Areas of non-compliance found during the ACCJC's regular review by the U.S. Department of Education prompted the DOE to continue its recognition of the ACCJC as an accrediting body for only a one-year period -- in which it must demonstrate compliance -- instead of the standard five-year period for renewal of recognition, and

Whereas, The 2015 Chancellor’s Accreditation Task Force Report has researched and reported on the actions of the ACCJC and has recommended unanimously that the Chancellor either pursue joining the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission or affiliating with another regional accreditor,

Therefore Be it Resolved, That College of the Canyons Academic Senate hereby joins with our colleagues throughout the state to express deep concern over the adversarial relationships fostered by the ACCJC, which pose a threat to fair accreditation and access to public higher education in California, and

Be it Further Resolved, That College of the Canyons Academic Senate stands in strong support of the recommendations made by the Chancellor’s 2015 Accreditation Task Force Report and endorses a new model for accreditation, including options such as forming a combined single accrediting commission with community colleges joining WASC Senior College and University Commission, in keeping with the prevalent model for regional accreditation, or identifying other regional accreditors that could serve the California Community Colleges.

Approved by the Academic Senate Date: November 5, 2015

Academic Senate President, Rebecca Eikey

Vice President Academic Senate, Teresa Ciardi

