



June 29, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

This week, Fullerton College received the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) action letter pursuant to the accreditation visit that took place during the month of March 2011. The Commission placed Fullerton College on Warning and asked that Fullerton College correct deficiencies that it noted. I want to reassure everyone that although the college is on Warning, it has not lost its accreditation status.

I want to thank the many members of the College Accreditation Steering Committee who put in countless hours of work to prepare for the Commission's March visit. I also gratefully acknowledge the contribution of our faculty, staff, students, Chancellor, district staff, and Board of Trustees for their support throughout this process.

The report from the ACCJC did offer the college the following Commendations:

1. The College is commended for its tradition of collegial discourse, which enables constructive dialogue to occur even when disagreements among participants exist.
2. The College's senior student services management division is commended for providing stability, sound guidance, and forward-thinking leadership during a period of transition on the part of the College administrative team.
3. The College, and in particular the Library, Academic Support Center, Veterans Services Office, EOPS Program, the Cadena Center, and Diversity Committee, are commended for the wide variety of innovative programmatic initiatives in support of student development, engagement, and success.

In its letter to the College, the Commission indicated that it placed the College on Warning for deficiencies associated with three District Recommendations, and two College Recommendations.

The three District Recommendations are:

1. In order to meet the Standards, the Team recommends the district, in concert with the colleges, further define and align planning, governance, and decision-making processes to provide clarity to its structure, function, and linkages.
2. To fully meet the Standards, the Team recommends the District more clearly delineate its budget allocation model, communicate the model to campus constituencies, and provide clarity as to its link to District planning.

3. In order to meet the Standard, the Team recommends that the District conduct regular analysis and evaluation of its District planning, governance, and decision-making processes in order to assess the efficacy of these systems and ensure their effectiveness. Results of these analyses and findings should be broadly communicated across the institutions and used as a basis for improvement, as appropriate.

The two College Recommendations are:

1. In order to meet the Standards, to fully address Recommendation 3 of the previous visiting Team report, and to advance to the Sustainable Continuous Quality Improvement on the ACCJC *Rubric for Evaluating Institutional Effectiveness* for planning and program review, the Team recommends that the institution complete a full cycle of adoption, implementation, and evaluation for its institutional planning, budgeting, program review, and resource allocation processes.
2. In order to meet the Standard, to fully address Recommendation 3 of the previous visiting Team report, and to fall within the required range of Sustainable Continuous Quality Improvement on the ACCJC *Rubric for Evaluating Institutional Effectiveness* for planning, the Team recommends that the College fully implement and strengthen its institutional planning process to include: 1) reporting systematically on an agreed upon set of College wide critical indicators and measures that clearly assess the progress of College wide goals; 2) closing the planning loop by evaluating actions taken and then documenting future actions based on the evaluation results; 3) expanding efforts to engage all relevant constituents in a collaborative inquiry process that is facilitated by a broad range of College members; 4) building in mechanisms for regularly evaluating the effectiveness of planning processes; and 5) providing transparency in the institutional planning process by communicating clearly, broadly, and systematically, and by providing structured, well-defined, opportunities for broad employee participation.

A copy of the ACCJC's letter and the visiting team's evaluation report can be viewed on the Fullerton College's Accreditation webpage at <http://accreditation.fullcoll.edu>.

In order to address the deficiencies noted, the College is required to complete a Follow-Up Report by March 15, 2012. This report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives. I am currently working with members of the college's governance units to establish an Accreditation Response Team. I will keep all members of the college community apprised of the work the team is doing through regular communication.

I recognize this will require a considerable amount of work, but I am confident that together we will complete our obligations and the Warning status will be removed.

Sincerely,



Rajen Vurdien, Ph.D., MBA  
President