

Accreditation Steering Committee

MEMBERS: Dan Sourbeer, Richard Albistegui-DuBois, Michelle Barton, Aaron Holmes, Suzanne Sebring, Lisa Cecere, Shawna Cohen, Jenny Fererro, Marty Furch, Barb Kelber, Greg Larson, Najib Manea, Connie Moise, Mollie Smith, Zach Gutierrez

RECORDER: Marti Snyder

Minutes - October 16, 2015

Meeting was called to order by VP Sourbeer at 11:08 a.m.

1. Review of new ACCJC Standards

VP Sourbeer informed the committee that while ACCJC has published new standards to reduce the duplication of criteria within standards, there was not a significant change. Of note:

- The accreditation cycle is seven years in length, increased from six.
- The midterm report will be due in year four.
- Institutions must be in compliance with all standards within the two-year window after a self-evaluation or they can be placed on “show cause”.

VP Sourbeer also reviewed the recent findings of the Task Force formed by the Chancellor’s Office to evaluate the current state of accreditation of the California Community Colleges. The Task Force found:

- The structure of accreditation in this region no longer meets the current and anticipated needs of the California Community Colleges.
- ACCJC has consistently failed to meet the expectations outlines in section three of the task force findings report.
- Few significant improvements have resulted from ACCJC’s reports of efforts to address concerns.
- The California Community College system and its member institutions have lost confidence in ACCJC.

The Task Force recommends investigation of alternate avenues for establishing new models for accreditation such as forming a combined single accrediting commission or identifying other regional accreditors that could serve California Community Colleges. The Task Force is hopeful that a recommendation for action can be brought to the Board of Governors by Spring 2016. However, until another means of accreditation can be established all member institutions have been instructed to maintain compliance with ACCJC standards for accreditation.

A number of ACCJC member institutions have passed Governing Board resolutions in support of the findings of the Task Force, while others have passed resolutions in support of ACCJC. The committee discussed the possibility of passing a resolution as well. Barb Kelber and Jenny Fererro mentioned that they would address this topic with the Faculty Senate at their next meeting.

2. March 2015 Site Visit Recommendations and Commendations

ACCJC reaffirmed accreditation for the College on the basis of a comprehensive evaluation. A follow-up report will be due in October of 2016, followed by a site visit by the evaluation team.

Commendations and recommendations identified in the External Evaluation Report can be found on the Accreditation Website at www2.palomar.edu/pages/followupreport2016/.

3. Recommendations 1 and 2 Status Report

VP Sourbeer gave an update on the work being done to address the two recommendations that were received for non-compliance with the standards.

Recommendation 1

The Tutoring Committee is spearheading a pilot program of offer online tutoring to students who are enrolled in distance education courses or who are enrolled at Camp Pendleton. The pilot program has had very few students access online tutoring services and is evaluating methods to expand the efficiency and reach of the program.

Student Services is working to expand the breadth of services offered to students at Camp Pendleton to ensure services are commensurate with those offered at the San Marcos campus. A team will be meeting with administrative personnel at Camp Pendleton to address physical space and services to be offered to active duty military and veterans.

Recommendation 2

Interim President Gonzales has strongly encouraged managers to promote staff participation and engagement.

New surveys are being developed by IR&P to measure the awareness of and participation in shared governance. The survey will likely mimic the 2013 Accreditation Employee Survey, with modifications to elicit feedback and data to address the concerns outlined in Recommendation 2.

4. Follow-up Report 2016 Timeline

Due to time constraints, this item was not addressed. A draft of the timeline will be sent via email to committee members.

5. Report From the Accreditation Leadership Team

Due to time constrains, this item was not addressed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Next Meeting:
TBD