

From: Mark W. Rocha
Sent: Thursday, July 08, 2010 1:38 PM
To: Staff
Subject: Important Message on Accreditation and Call to Meeting

Dear Colleagues:

I write to inform you of the action of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and then to call you to a **very important open meeting on Tuesday, July 20, 2010 at 12:00 Noon in the Circadian Lounge.**

The ACCJC action was communicated to me in their letter that I received on Tuesday. I have of course shared this information with the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee and leaders of the Accreditation Response Steering Committee.

In brief, the ACCJC action:

“The Commission took action to accept the report and continue Warning”. The Commission reminds the College of the requirement for a Follow-Up Report by October 15, 2010 as noted in the Commission action letter of June 30, 2009. That report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.”

So we still have some hard work to do to resolve the deficiencies the ACCJC has called out to us in their five major recommendations. We will continue to take the task before us seriously and get the job done. The Warning is tied to recommendation #1 (the development of a systematic assessment of evaluation mechanisms i.e., program review and planning processes). Much good work has already been done to satisfy the Commission’s concerns. But the college has chosen the path of real transformation not mere compliance so we will necessarily need a bit more time to resolve recommendation #1 in the manner the Commission requires. Our work continues and we will put it on-track for full resolution by October 15.

As we begin this next phase of our work, I do want to make a brief comment based on my own extensive experience with accreditation and the ACCJC. For a great college like PCC, accreditation must not be a compliance ritual but rather a tool we use in order to get better and do better for our students. The task of a great college like ours is the hardest task of all: how do we get still greater in the

cause of our mission of student success? So I have always tried to approach the reaffirmation of accreditation and, in our present case, getting the college off Warning, as a *side effect* of our continuous work of planning and improvement tied to our mission. This is why I take this ACCJC action as an opportunity to complete our Educational Master Plan and then to connect this mission-based EMP to a timeline of real actions we will take in the near future.

I'll provide the long version of this approach, as well as complete copies of the ACCJC action letter and evaluation report at our meeting on July 20th. Based on my consultation with faculty and staff leaders, I am calling an extraordinary joint meeting of the Accreditation Response Steering Committee and the Educational Master Plan Steering Committee, as noted above. I am asking that the members of these two steering groups do everything possible to clear their schedules to attend. **The meeting is also open to all faculty and staff** and I encourage anyone who is free to attend. We need your input, we need your help.

I will work with the leadership of both steering committees to prepare an agenda for our July 20th meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

I do want to thank so many of you who have done so much work on the accreditation and EMP. We will honor this work by finishing the job together. I look forward to seeing you on July 20th.

Thanks
Mark

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