



California Community Colleges
Accreditation History
Update on Workgroups I & II

February 2017

+ 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.*



ROLE of **CCC Board of Governors** in ACCREDITATION

- **Ed Code** requires BOG to define conditions for colleges to get state funding to include **accreditation status**
- **Title 5:** each college must be accredited by **accreditor** (must be recognized by US Secretary of Ed) that is **recommended by State Chancellor and approved by BOG**
- **Jan 2015** BOG revised Title 5 Regs **to remove specific mention of ACCJC**

+ November 2015 Board of Governors

BOG accepted Task Force recommendations.

RESOLUTION: *“The current structure of ACCJC, along with its lack of credibility as perceived by its peers and the public, no longer meet the current and anticipated needs of California community colleges.”*

Directed Chancellor:

Share report with USDE

Work through system’s established consultation process to **bring to BOG March 2016 meeting:**

1. *A recommendation for action to establish a new model for an accrediting agency*
2. *An implementation plan, along with timeline.*



CEOs began shifting the Conversation . . .

...to what we need in our accreditor to meet changing needs of our colleges, students, communities, workforce, and public

- **TAKE RESPONSIBILITY for OUR ACCREDITOR**
- **ADDRESS CHANGING REALITY of higher education**
- **RESPECT our culture of COLLEGIAL CONSULTATION**
- **ENCOURAGE RISK-TAKING and INNOVATION**
- **DRIVE CHANGE THROUGH COLLABORATION and RESPECT**

Jan- Feb: Accreditation Implementation Taskforce 4.0

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

March 2016 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 / May - Workgroup II

December - New ACCJC Leadership



Workgroup I Update

+ 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 MEMBERS:

CALIFORNIA CEOs

- **Helen Benjamin, Retired Chancellor, Contra Costa CCD, Convener**
- **Michael Claire, President, San Mateo College (San Mateo CCD)**
- **David Wain Coon, Superintendent/President, Marin CCD**
- **Debbie DiThomas, Superintendent/President, Barstow CCD**
- **Kathy Hart, Superintendent/President, San Joaquin Delta CCD**
- **Victor Jaime, Superintendent/President, Imperial Valley College (Imperial CCD)**
- **Kathryn Jeffrey, Superintendent/President, Santa Monica CCD**
- **Jowel LaGuerre, Chancellor, Peralta CCD**
- **Marvin Martinez, President, East Los Angeles College (Los Angeles CCD)**
- **Kindred Murillo, Superintendent/President, Southwestern CCD**
- **Kevin Walthers, Superintendent/President, Allan Hancock CCD**
- **John Weispfenning, President, Santiago Canyon College (Rancho Santiago CCD)**

PRIVATE COLLEGE CEO

- **John Zimmerman President, MTI College**

ACADEMIC SENATE LEADERSHIP

- **David Morse, President, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges**
- **Julie Bruno, Vice President, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges**

ACCREDITATION LIAISON OFFICERS

- **Lori Bennett, Executive Vice President, Moorpark College (Ventura CCD)**
- **Meredith Randall, Vice President, Shasta College (Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Joint CCD)**

ACCJC COMMISSIONER LIAISONS

- **Raul Rodriguez, Chancellor, Rancho Santiago CCD**
- **Sonya Christian, President, Bakersfield College (Kern CCD)**

+ 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

- **Report:** June 8-10, 2016 ACCJC Commission meeting

+ 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 @ www.ccleague.org (under RESOURCES – Accreditation)

+ 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



Area of Focus I: Visiting Team Chair and Team Member Selection and Training



Deborah Brown Dithomas

Marlon Raynald Hall Sr.

Gari Browning

Jill Board

Eva Conrad

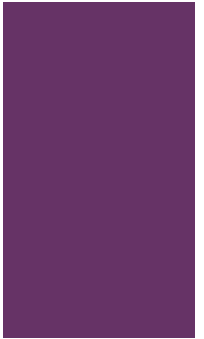
Lori Bennett

Keith Snow-Flamer

Lori Gaskin



Area of Focus I: Visiting Team Chair and Team Member Selection and Training



Team Proposal

- Staff teams quickly, distribute materials, and train early

- Chair selection, mentoring training on steroids

- Training content, online, case studies, positive tone

Status

- Changes in process, some made, new database to track team members

- Stepped up, in process

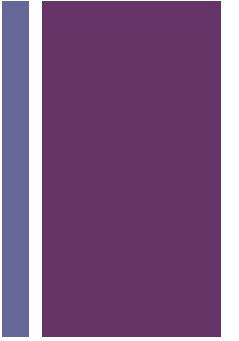
- Evidence in latest trainings suggestions are being implemented

+ Area of Focus II: Communication

Kathy Hart, San Joaquin Delta College

Victor Jaime, Imperial Valley College

Kevin Walthers, Allan Hancock College





Recommendations



Team Proposal

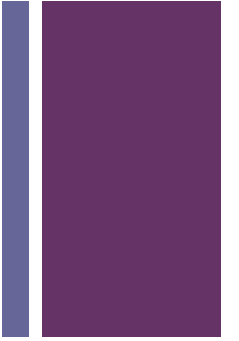
Status

- 1. Create more collegial communication**
- 2. Develop Strategic Plan**
- 3. Allow for face to face meetings/ conversations with colleges**
- 4. Sponsor Annual Conference**
- 5. Improve Website**
- 6. Increase contact with ALOs**

- 1. Field has noted improvement in formal communication**
- 2. In process using WGI framework**
- 3. In progress: ACCJC staff to host “open hour” at conference**
- 4. Scheduled for April**
- 5. Will debut at conference**
- 6. In progress**



Area of Focus III: Evaluation



David Wain Coon, Marin CCD

Kathryn Jeffery, San Mateo CCD

David Morse, Long Beach CCD



Recommendations



1. Create a comprehensive process of evaluation of the Commission and use the results to do the following. (H)

- **Update/Revise Commission's policies, procedures, and templates. (H)**
- **Develop/implement Commission's strategic plan. (H)**
- **Inform the work of various committees. (M)**
- **Develop annual budget. (M)**
- **Inform annual evaluation of the Commission President and Commission staff. (H)**
- **Modify/enhance training and professional development activities offered by the Commission. (M)**
- **Share evaluation results as appropriate. (M)**



Area of Focus IV: Process and Structure



Pre-Visit, Site Visit, Post-Visit, Institutional Self-Evaluation Report, Sub Change, Annual Report/Workload

- Julie Bruno, Sierra College
- Meredith Randall, Shasta College
- Mike Claire, College of San Mateo

Goals:

- **Return to a spirit of collegial peer review and meaningful institutional improvement**
- **Get it right: improve processes to ensure that the Commission is acting on correct information**
- **Reduce the workload burden on the institution, the visiting team, and the Commission.**



Area of Focus IV: Process and Structure



Recommendation	Status
Consider adopting pre-visit practices from other commissions.	ACCJC will examine pre-visit practices of other commissions.
Simplify the visit; focus on improvement rather than compliance.	ACCJC will explore practices of other commissions but colleges still must comply with accreditation standards.
Provide opportunity for post-visit dialog beyond “errors of fact”.	ACCJC is open to the expanding post-visit dialog.
Share rationale for changes to team recommendation with Chair.	ACCJC has changed their practices; this recommendation has been met.
Examine format, content and length of ISER; provide technical assistance.	ACCJC concurs and has taken steps to simplify ISER and to improve technical assistance.
Streamline the Sub-Change process	ACCJC concurs and is in the process of revising the Sub-Change manual to reflect new policies.



Area of Focus V: Commission Operations, Financial Transparency, Size, and Nominating Committee



Marvin Martinez, East LA College

John Zimmerman, MTI College

John Weispenning, Coast CCD



Area of Focus V: Commission Operations, Financial Transparency, Size, and Nominating Committee



Team Proposal

- **Annual meeting with CEO Forum and financial disclosure**

- **Adjust member representation; add CFO representative**

- **Clarify nominating process, publicize qualifications desired, formalize ballot counting**

Status

- **ACCJC agreed; CEOs will monitor**

- **ACCJC agrees CFO needed; CEOs request additional adjustment and will monitor**

- **ACCJC agrees to clarify and publicize; CEOs request formal ballot counting and will monitor**



Area of Focus V: Commission Operations, Financial Transparency, Size, and Nominating Committee



Team Proposal

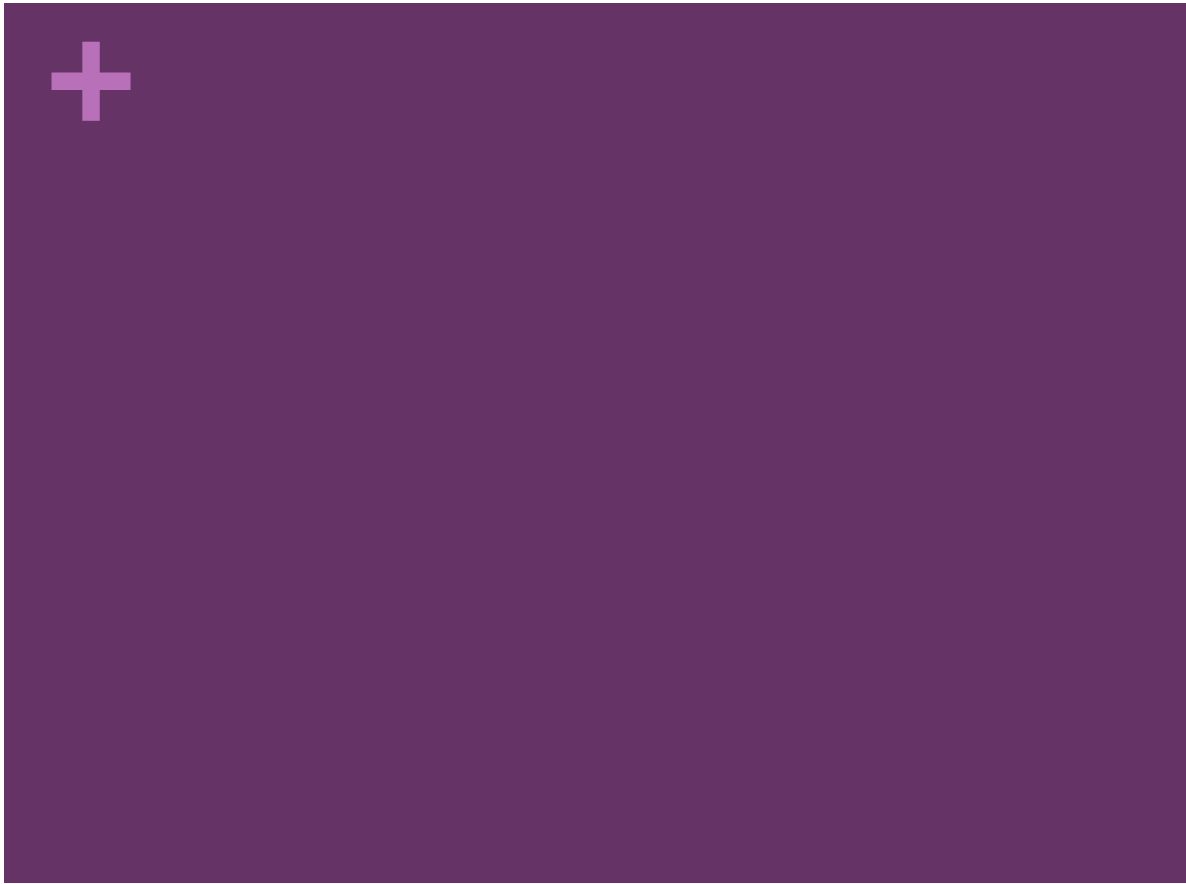
- Faculty representatives on the Commission who take administrative positions should be replaced as soon as possible. If there is an appropriate vacancy, appoint the former faculty representative to serve the remainder of that term.

- The Commission should memorialize the sequence of events leading to this point

Status

- New

- New



Workgroup II Update

+ 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
-
- 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
(plus calls, electronic exchange)

Accreditation Workgroup II Members

27

California Community College CEOs

Cindy Miles	Chancellor, Grossmont-Cuyamaca CCD, Convener
Lori Adrian	President, Coastline CC (Coast CCD)
Sandra Caldwell	President, Reedley College (State Center CCD)
Constance Carroll	Chancellor, San Diego CCD
Debbie DiThomas	Superintendent/President, Barstow CC
Ron Kraft	Superintendent/President, Napa CCD
Willard Lewallen	Superintendent/President, Hartnell CCD; ACCJC Commissioner
Dena Maloney	Superintendent/President, El Camino CCD
Cheryl Marshall	Chancellor, North Orange CCCD
Brian Murphy	Brian Murphy President, De Anza College (Foothill-DeAnza CCD)
Bill Scroggins	President/CEO, Mt San Antonio CCD
Susan Sperling	President, Chabot College (Chabot-Las Positas CCD)
Joe Wyse	Superintendent/President, Shasta-Tehama-Trinity CCD

University of Hawaii community colleges

Lui Hokoana	Chancellor, Maui College, University of Hawaii
--------------------	--

Private Colleges with membership in ACCJC

Jeff Akens	Retired President (Carrington College)
-------------------	--

WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC)

Mary Ellen Petrisko	President
William Ladusaw	Professor of Linguistics, UCSC; Commission Chair

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)

Raul Rodriguez	Chancellor, Rancho Santiago CCD; Commission Chair
Ex-officio Member	
Brian King	Chancellor, Los Rios CCD
RESOURCE:	National Policy Advisor; Former Deputy Under Secretary, NACIQI
Jamienne Studley	Chair, US Dept. of Education

+ 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 & 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, 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

9 MONTHS DELIBERATION & REVIEW

Compared processes/structures of other commissions

Feedback from WSCUC/ACCJC commissioners, staff, members

Reviewed Higher Education Landscape & NACIQI/USDE

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

Feedback from Under Secretary Ted Mitchell & USDE staff

CONSENSUS on LONG-TERM GOAL:

Single Accreditor for Western Region

+ RATIONALE for UNITY :

- **Community colleges as respected component** of the higher education system
- **Shared goals**, standards, students, communities served
- **Common focus** on student success, stewardship, quality, improvement
- **Strength in unity** facing accountability, accreditation changes
- **Overcome inconsistency** in split system of Western region, unlike other 5 U.S. accrediting regions
- **Increasingly blurred lines between higher education segments** (CSU doctorate, community college baccalaureate, university associate degrees; public/private/online)
- **Alignment** across sectors to meet needs of workforce & **STUDENTS** (Associate Degrees for Transfer, National Completion Agenda)

+ Assumptions:

- Transition would take a number of years (~10 yrs.)
- Many details & steps to be clarified, but overall process of colleges transitioning from ACCJC to WSCUC:
 - 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 and feedback**
- **Implementation, Timeline, Communication Plans**
- **Must engage ALL groups in California, Hawaii, and Western Pacific in developing the best possible plans.**
- **Many constituency discussions...**





COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

[Contact Us](#)[Search Our Site](#)*Visit us on Facebook* [Home](#)[About the League](#)[Advocacy](#)[District Services](#)[Events](#)[Leadership Development](#)[Publications](#)[Resources](#)[Resources](#)

Accreditation

The League is pleased to provide the following resources for the accreditation efforts of California Community Colleges. The information listed below is a joint effort by the Community College League of California and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. This page is for informational purposes only.

Publications and Reports

- [Report to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors \(September 2015\)](#)
- [A Preliminary Report to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges \(September 2015\)](#)
- [2015 Taskforce on Accreditation Report](#)
- [March, 2016 Board of Governors resolution on accreditation](#)
- [Team Evaluator Manual](#)

ccleague.org
RESOURCES tab
ACCREDITATION